October 1st—7th, 1987, No. 40 75¢

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

BLUEFISH CONTEST SUMMARY

★★★

ROBERT OSES UTOG

★★

TUMN ATTIES

★★

YORK GHT

★★

NBOW ALLEY

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THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

Volume 22, Number 40 October 1st, 1987

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ABOUT THE COVER:

After spending much of the summer contending with short fluke, sinker bouncers are enjoying a good start to the fall blackfish run. Here, Shakespeare rep Greg Nisito shows a double of tog taken just outside Jones Inlet. Greg Nisito Photo.

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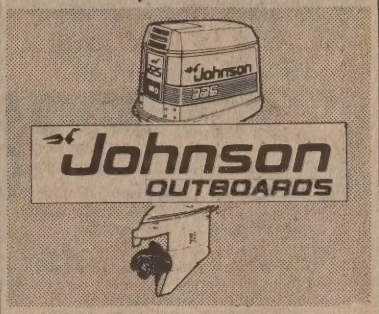

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11TH ANNUAL FREEPORT IN-WATER BOAT SHOW

Dawan McPeak, Queen of the Freeport In-Water Boat Show salutes last week's opening of the East Coast's largest in-water boat show.

Last year's reigning Miss New York State beauty and former Dallas Cowboys' Cheerleader will be on hand to greet visitors. Over 500 boats in all size ranges will be on display.

Show hours this weekend (October 3-4) are from 10AM to 6PM. The show is located at the Guy Lombardo Marina in Freeport, Long Island.

RALLY PLANNED TO DEFINE SPORTSMEN'S POSITION RE: WILDLIFE

A sportmen's rally combined with the "Annual Legislator's Night"—billed as the largest organized sportsmen's rally ever held in Suffolk County—will convene Friday, October 16th in the huge paneled trophy room of Peconic River Sportsmen's Club (the former Woolworth-Donohue dynasty's shooting estate) with festivities starting at 7PM, it was announced.

The rally's purpose is to air and pinpoint the sportsmen's position on the truth about wildlife, legislative hurdles to overcome, cooperation needed, public education on these activities and the relatively unknown public and community services performed by the many Suffolk County sportsmen's groups.

Sponsored jointly the the Peconic River Sportsmen's Club and the Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen, Inc., which represents 45 Suffolk sportsmen organizations ranging in membership from 20 to 300, the October rally is expected to draw over 500 sports club officers, members and non-club sportsmen.. The rally also includes the all-important "Annual Legislator's Night," when the candidates (incumbents and aspirants) for public office meet the sportsmen and the sportsmen meet the candidates. Suffolk and Town candidates have been invited to meet attendees and make know their positions as they relate to hunting and fishing areas of outdoor recreation.

James E. Reinke, president of the National Rifle Association, will be the keynote speaker. He will put into perspective the power of groups like the Long Island sportsmen and address their hunting activities at regional and national levels, what they face in the way of pending constraints, politics and conservation and the need for a definitive understanding of the sportsmen's place in controlled conservation today.

Reinke will take this opportunity to cite the Peconic Club for its recent appointment as "Club of the Year" in a national competition held under the auspices of the National Skeet Shooting Association. In addition, he will present the Club with two coveted National Rifle Association awards won earlier this year in a competition with clubs all over the country for Outstanding Community Service and for Most Improved Facility.

Outdoor writer and public relations consultant, Gene Seraphine, will present an overview on "Sportsmen's Clubs and their Communities."

Joseph Mazza, President of the Peconic Club, will conduct the formal agenda and he and William Shaber, president of the Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen, Inc., will introduce public officials and aspiring candidates for public office.

President Mazza will announce at the end of the legislator's night/sportsmen's rally ceremonies that the Peconic Club will stage an invitational clay target tournament in the near future (date to be announced) from which monetary proceeds will go to benefit the legislative arm of the National Rifle Association.

The rally committee will be sending out a series of bulletins and flyers to all sports groups throughout Suffolk County urging their presidents to advise their memberships to attend the October rally. For information: 273-4346 or 728-2680.

SEA BANDS RELIEVES NAUSEA

Sea Bands, a safe, non-drug, non-prescription remedy for all types of nausea in many sufferers is now available through Ocean Notions of Locust Valley, New York.

The Sea Bands, a unique new product is a pair of elasticized wrist bands each with a small corrosion-proof button which is placed on the inside of each forearm. Slight pressure on a point, located three finger widths above the wrist fold can ease and prevent nausea from all types of motion sickness.

First developed by an internist in a leading New York City hospital, Sea Bands utilize the science of accupressure to relieve nausea. Unlike medications, Sea Bands may be used both before and during most nausea producing conditions. The Sea Bands have been tested extensively at sea on airlines, with chermotherapy, during pregnancy and under many other conditions.

Sea Bands were used by many competitors and thousands of spectators during the America's Cup Races in Australia.

Barry Watts, of Ocean Notions, the Eastern Seaboard distributor of Sea Bands, says that the Sea Bands are now available at leading marinas, marine supply stores, pharmacies and some travel agents and cruise

lines, throughout the New York Metro area, Long Island, Connecticut, Westchester, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

Those people wanting more information and a free brochure should call (516) 759-1653. Sea Bands retail at $12.50.

SAFE BOATING COURSE IN PORT JEFFERSON

With the New York and Nassau Boat Show signaling the start of the 1988 boating season within a few short months, the Old Field Point Power Squadron reminds boaters that it will begin a 10-week evening course in safe boating in October in Port Jefferson. The course is designed for skippers and would-be skippers and is open to men, women and teenagers over 16.

Classes will be held at the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School, Old Post Road, Port Jefferson on Tuesdays at 8PM, starting October 13th. Registration for those classes will take place from 7:30 to 8:00 at the school on October 13th.

Ownership of a boat is not required to attend the Old Field Point Power Squadron's course. Classes cover the technique of safe handling inboard, outboard and sail boats, anchoring, tying basic knots, chart reading, plotting courses, use of the mariner's compass and safety afloat. Aid to navigation, such as buoys and radio beacons, are also explained in illustrated lectures. There is a minimum fee for course papers, charts and plotting instruments.

The Old Field Point Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, conducts the classes as a civic contribution to teach boaters and those interested in boating, skills they must possess for safety on the water. Additional information can be obtained by calling Mr. Dennis Gatto at (516) 732-4356, after 6PM daily.

OUTDOOR NEWS NETWORK BRINGS FISHING AND HUNTING ACTION TO THE NASHVILLE NETWORK STARTING IN OCTOBER

The Outdoor News Network returns to the Nashville Network's fall "Sports Sunday" programming lineup with fishing action, hunting how-to tips and great "up close and personal" footage of bears, halibut and marlin.

Starting October 4th, the Outdoor News Network crew tackles giant black marlin with pro football Hall of Famer Lance Alsworth off the shores of Cabo San Lucas in Mexico. Viewers will be treated to duck hunting and dog handling tips October 11th, along with some fishing action with former pro baseball great Boog Powell in Key West.

A special treat is in store for viewers on the October 18th show. Answering requests from the spring series, the Outdoor News Network will rebroadcast the halibut fishing show from Admiralty Island in Alaska. In this show, ONN's producer Sean Foxen lands a giant Pacific halibut weighing in at 248 lbs. The big fish was just short of the world record.

Viewers will also have a chance to win valuable prizes and fishing trips by participating in the "Fishing Trivia" segment each week. During the spring series, C.W. Cratsley from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, won a Yamaha 9.9 hp outboard and Peter Loomis from Toledo, Ohio, won an expense-paid trip to Eliguk Lodge, a trout fishing paradise in British Columbia.

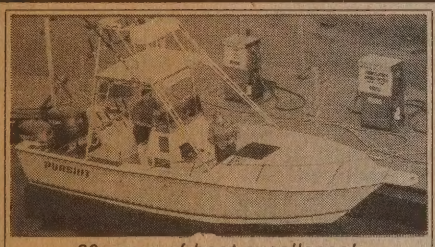
Check the TV Guide or your local programming guide for where the Nashville Network can be found on your television dial. The ONN show airs Sunday at 1PM EST, noon CST and 10AM PST.

LONG ISLAND FLYRODDERS AUCTION

The Long Island Flyrodders will present their 3rd annual Used Tackle Action on Tuesday, October 13th, 7PM, at Hicksville Public Library, Jerusalem Avenue, Hicksville, New York (1 block south of Old Country Road).

Selling and bidding is open to the public. Items include: fishing, camping, hunting equipment and out-of-doors supplies.

For additional information, call Dan Van Buskirk, after 6PM at (516) 561-8939.



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HYDRA-SPORTS

Boats For Anglers

GRADY-WHITE 24 OFFSHORE

by John Raguso

What do you get when one of the boating industry's most progressive builders takes their proven, best-selling mid-sized outboard hull and significantly revamps its layout in an attempt to project the future? Well, if that builder is Grady-White, the bottom line is one of the most versatile fishing and family boats available on the market today at any price.

This new 24 Offshore is really an amalgam of two former models, the 24 Offshore and the 24 Pro. By taking the best features of each and adding a few new ingredients to the mix, this boat is a perfect blend of no-nonsense fishing machine and family runabout.

The three-piece assembly (hull, liner and deck) that makes up the 24 Offshore assures the captain and crew that this is one strong sonofagun and is designed to stand up to the rigors of blue water fishing. The 100 percent hand-laid 8-layer hull (5x1.5 oz. mat and 3x24 oz. woven roving) is supported by a complex marine plywood stringer grid which is totally encapsulated in resin to guarantee its integrity. An additional four layers of glass in the form of dual strips of Fabmat are applied over the stringers to bond it permanently to the hull. This brings the total number of reinforcing fiberglass layers up to 12, and the hull's 3200 lb. dry weight sans fuel, motors or gear proudly reflects its strength.

But far from being a sluggish heavyweight on the water, the 24 Offshore is a quick and nimble beast while under way. The proprietary modified deep vee hull has a lot to do with the boat's favorable performance. Its unique dual deadrise design provides smooth going while trolling or drifting, easy planing out of the hole with a single 200 hp V6 outboard and a sharp enough entry forward to tame the typical seas you're likely to encounter 30 miles off the beach.

Having put about 500 hours on this hull in the last few seasons, I have been able to observe its operating efficiency with a number of different power formats. My old 24 was equipped with a single 200 Merc outboard and optimum fuel efficiency occurred at 4,000 RPMs, doing 25 knots in the bay and 23.5 knots cavorting in the ocean swells spinning a 14.5"x17" S/S wheel. This consumed approximately 11 gallons of petrol per hour for a nautical MPG rating of about 2.2 on average and my top end was 34 knots at 5,400 revs with a full load of fuel and gear. Noted Boating Magazine columnist Bob Stearns tested the G/W 249 center console last year with a pair of Yamaha 115 hp V4s and since these boats share the identical hull, speed and fuel consumption curves should be in the same ballpark. The best cruise figures for the twin Yama's also took place at 4,000 RPMs, turning 27.3 knots at 13.1 GPH, for a 2 nautical MPG net result with 13.5"x19" props. Top speed was 37.9 knots at 5,600 revs. Comparatively, the 24 Offshore hull powered by an OMC 225 hp V6 outboard does about 23 knots in the briny at 4,000 RPMs turning a 15"x17" wheel, drinking in the neighborhood of 13 GPH. As a final note on performance, whatever your preference for outboards, be sure to opt for trim tabs on this middleweight, as your control and riding comfort will increase dramatically.

One of the major revamps for 1988 finds the cabin roof domed and rounded a bit to create additional headroom inside. This enabled the Grady-White engineers to add an optional horizontal rod rack on the port side of the cabin's interior that will keep a half dozen blue water trolling rods secure during your wildest escapades. Combine this with the four rod racks already in place down under and you have total storage for 10 rod and reel combos.

Moving topside, another improvement for '88 is the addition of a flush mounted anchor locker in the forepeak that will stow a Danforth type 8 lb. hook in a locked-in vertical position, away from where an unsuspecting shin can be skinned from an exposed anchor fluke. The helm sports a clear and unobstructed view of the ocean before you and the built-in electronics locker will house both a low profile Loran C unit in addition to a VHF radio, out of the weather and out of sight of potential vagrants.

Continuing aft, yet another modification for this season is a recessed teak toe rail to port and starboard that will provide added security when attempting to wire and gaff a frisky mako or tuna. The revised insulated stern fishboxes feature a pair of oval wells that drain overboard and have an optional livewell pump.

Add to this list of pacesetting features 325 quarts of overboard draining insulated fish boxes, 148 gal. fuel capcity, 100 percent true self-bailing cockpit, basic foam flotation, 100 percent stainless steel hardware, and a list of other standard ingredients that could fill two pages in a catalog and you get the picture. This package ranks right up there with some of the all-time classic hulls and you will see these Grady 24s in every fishing port from Boston to the Bahamas, competing with the big boys and winning their share of tournaments along the way. Eddie Smith and company have proven an old adage with this latest edition of the 24 Offshore: like a fine wine, some things do get better with age.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	24'1"
Beam	8'3"
Weight	3,200 pounds
Fuel Capacity:	
Standard	93 gallons
Optional	148 gallons
Maximum Horsepower	300

Manufactured by: Grady-White Boats, Post Office Box 1527, Greenville, North Carolina 27835; (919) 752-2111.

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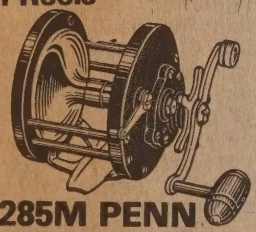

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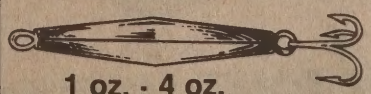

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Product Review

THE BOTTOM LINE

by Eric Burnley

I was first introduced to the Bottom Line Fish Finders last winter when Jim Kosier offered to lend me two of their models for some hands-on use during my Saltwater Fishing Workshops. I was quite impressed with features offered with these units, but running them on a simulator is a far cry from running them on the water.

In May I installed a Bottom Line TBL 300 on my boat and I found the unit performed as well in real fishing situations as it did in the simulation mode. Since that time the TBL 300 has undergone some major improvements and this year you can order a Tournament 310 or update your TBL 300 to a TBL 300 Plus, which converts it to a 310.

The first real test of my TBL 300 came during the weakfish run in Delaware Bay. This type of fishing requires finding schools of sea trout on the bottom and staying with them while jigging bucktails past their noses. The TBL 300 was able to clearly separate fish from the bottom so there was no doubt when you were over productive territory.

I ran the unit with the Bottom Track feature engaged. This allows you to se only the bottom on one side of the screen while watching the entire area from the surface down to the bottom on the other side. Since the weakfish were holding on or very near the bottom the Bottom Track feature magnified their return on the screen.

The TBL 300 displays the surface water temperature and the boat speed along with the picture of th water column under your boat.

The boat speed is calculated from a paddle wheel device on the triducer. It gives you the speed of your boat over the bottom. However, your lures react to the water speed so it is important to have this information as well as your speed over the bottom which is supplied by your Loran.

Since the triducer supplies water speed and temperature as well as the sonar signals to the bottom, it should be mounted on the transom. If you mount the triducer inside the boat to shoot through the hull you will lose the water speed and temperature functions.

I did have one problem with the TBL 300 that has since been corrected by the manufacturer. The screen would become very dark and difficult to read in direct sunlight. The problem was the temperature tolerance of the screen which was too low. The current Tournament 310 and the updated TBL 300 Plus have a new screen with a much higher temperature rating. I purposely exposed my TBL 300 Plus to direct sunlight for over an hour and the screen was just as clear as if it were in the shade.

One of the best features of the Bottom Line products is their updating service. If you have a Bottom Line TBL 300 or Tournament 310 and you want to update it with the latest innovations simply send it back to the factory where, for a nominal fee, they will re-program it for you.

The new Tournament 310 or the updated TBL 300 Plus have some very interesting features. They use a 30,720 pixel LCD screen for excellent detail and soft key operation that makes using all the other features a snap.

You can use the soft keys in combination with the tuning knob to adjust the gain, contrast, range, discrimination, zoom, bottom track, scroll speed, zone alarm, hazard, alarm, fish alarm, and the cursor. Or you may choose to let the unit control itself and run on atuomatic.

The cursor is another innovative feature. You can set the cursor across a fish or school of fish shown on the screen. The unit will compute and display how deep the fish are and how far they are behind the boat.

Other features include a 3/4 inch separation between targets, 800 watts peak to peak power; 200 KHZ and 50 KHZ models with 600 and 900 foot ranges, a built-in simulator and automatic noise reduction.

There is a navigational display that shows your speed, water depth, temperature log, distance traveled and the time left on the countdown timer. The timer can be set to let you know when the tide will change, the tournament will be over or when your wife will have dinner ready.

The Fish D' Tect' will let you know exactly which targets are fish. When you select this mode the unit generates fish symbols in a size appropriate to the size of the return. Big fish show up as big symbols and little fish show up as little symbols.

All of these features on the Tournament 310 are packed into a water resistant case that measures 7-7/8 x 10¼ x 1 inch. My TBL 300 is 1¼ inches deep so not only is the Tournament 310 packed with more features, it is almost half as thick.

Finally, a note to those of you who find the instruction manuals for electronic equipment confusing. Not only is the Bottom Line easy to operate but the instruction manual is easy to understand. Should you get out on the water with your unit and find you left the manual at home, not to worry. Select any function and press the soft key under the word help. The screen will display a complete explanation of the function plus instructions on how to adjust it. You can't make it much easier than that.

For more information on the complete line of Bottom Line electronics which include the Tournament 310, TBL 210, TBL 100 and the TBL 050, write Bottom Line, Computrol Inc., Marine Electronics Division, 5381 Kendall Street, Boise, Idaho 83706 or phone (208) 376-0500.

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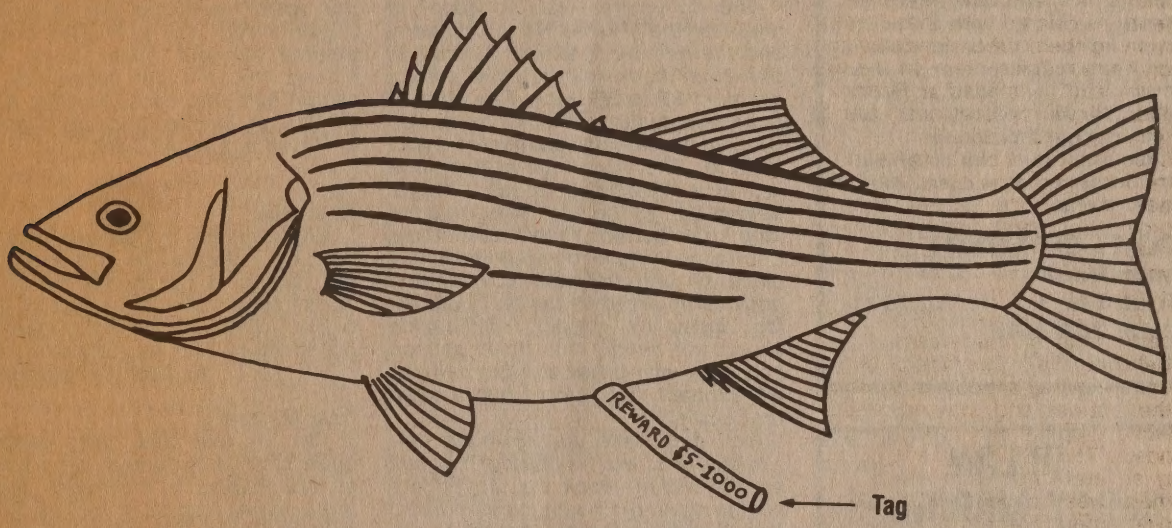

The Hudson River Foundation (HRF) is participating in a multi-year study of Hudson River striped bass population biology. You can help in this study by returning tags from striped bass you catch, and the HRF will pay for your assistance. If you catch a tagged striped bass, whether you intend to keep it* or release it, carefully cut off the tag where it passes through the fish's skin. When you return a tag, the HRF will send you the minimum reward printed on the tag ($5) and a questionnaire that asks for the date, location and method of capture, the fish's length, and the condition of the tag insertion site. Upon completion and return of the questionnaire, your tag number will be entered into a drawing to be held in February. Nine tag numbers will be randomly selected. The HRF will award $100 per tag to the first five fishermen whose numbers are drawn, $500 per tag to the next two fishermen whose numbers are drawn, and $1000 per tag to the last two fishermen whose numbers are drawn. Each tag you submit will be eligible for a reward.

*Contact your state health department if you have questions concerning the advisibility of eating striped bass.

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The Tackle Doctor

by Ken Freel

Dear Doc,

Enclosed you will find a copy of an article by Russ Wilson which focuses on fluke fishing. The picture with the article shows a two hook fluke rig. Where can you buy such a rig or how can it be made? Thank you for your time. *Jack T. Cohen.*

Dear Jack,

The rig you are talking about is made by the Mustad Hook Company and the number is 92586. It consists of a small hook soldered onto a long shanked 1/0 to 3/0 hook. This style of hook is popular with fluke fishermen who are specifically looking for bigger flounder. The advantage of this hook is that it allows you to use a bigger strip of bait as the two hooks hold the long strips better. When the fish bites it will usually have to engulf the whole piece of bait because the tandem hook setup prevents the bait from being ripped off easily. Most tackle shops will handle this rig in season and if you give a few shops a call you will probably be able to find a shop that carries it.

You can make your own rig that works just as well as this rig. It is called the sliding hook rig. To tie the sliding rig start off with the standard 3 foot leader and snell the 1/0 to 3/0 hook to the end. The next step is to take a smaller hook and place it on the leader line above the bigger snelled hook. Then, by using an extra piece of leader material snell the smaller hook onto the 3 foot leader. Don't tighten the snell completely as this will prevent you from sliding the hook up or down to the desired position. With this type of setup you can use 6 inch strips of bait or 10 inch lengths. Whatever size you feel will take those big late season doormats. This rig is described in Don Kamienski's "Fishing for Fluke," available at most tackle shops and from The Fisherman Library.

As with everything that gives you an advantage there is also a slight disadvantage that sometimes comes into play. These tandem hook rigs become tangled in the fluke nets more easily and bad tangles are more likely to occur. On party boats, this means the net is out of service until the rig is free which may cost you or another angler a fish. On your own boat a tangled rig will mean some lost fishing time. It's just something you should take into consideration. All in all, though, this two hook rig is deadly for those bigger flounder.

* * *

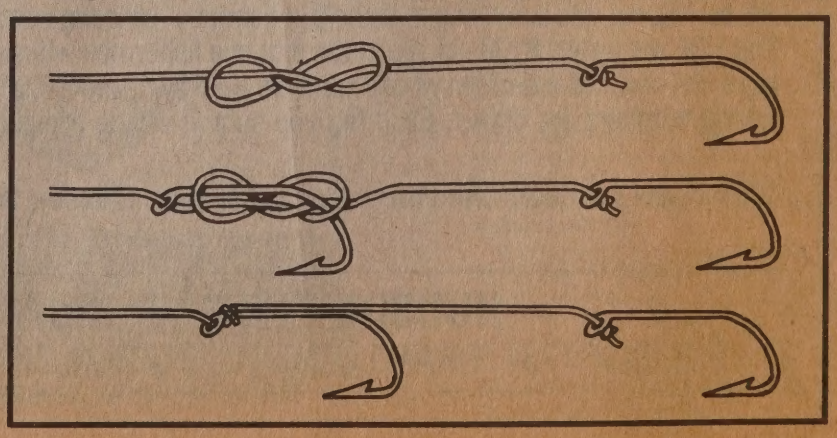
Dear Doc,

While visiting my parents in Stamford, Ct., I decided to do some snapper fishing at Cummings Beach. To my surprise I saw thousands of dead bunker. What happened? Does this occur often? This happened in July.
Michael T. Shahnamian.

Dear Michael,

Yes, in fact this does happpen quite often with bunker, also known as mossbunker or menhaden, during the summer months along the Northeastern Coast. The usual reason for the large die-offs occurs because these fish have a habit of following smaller fish into very shallow confined waters much like the Cummings Beach area. When hundreds of fish suddenly move into these confined stretches of water the oxygen level drops too quickly and most of the fish in the school suffocate. You'll see many of the fish flapping along the water's edge in a vain attempt to get away from the oxygen depleted water, but it is too late.

Later, hundreds or thousands of fish may become more obvious to the



passer-by as the tide moves out and reveals all of these fish lying dead everywhere. Although it never makes one feel good about seeing all of these dead fish, in this case it's only nature's way of controlling certain fish populations.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I go fishing with a friend quite often and I've noticed he always catches more weakfish than I do. The thing that bothers me is that we have identical outfits and use the same kind of bait and hooks. We fish from his boat in the bay and I seem to be doing every thing right but he always catches more weaks than I do. He won't let me in on his secret and tells me that he just knows how to catch the fish better than me. We're still good fishing buddies, but what's his secret? Thanks for any help you can offer.

John Padgett.

Dear John,

There is always a bit of luck involved in fishing, but it seems there is something more than luck in play here since your friend "always" catches more fish than you. Since you mentioned that you are fishing in a bay I will suppose you are anchoring up at a certain spot where the weakfish are known to be. Does your friend cast out a bit from the boat? One of the biggest mistakes when fishing for weakfish is to drop your line directly to the bottom. You'll still catch fish by doing this but you're likely to catch more if you cast the bait out from the boat. There are two reasons for this.

The first is that weakfish are a very cautious and skittish fish and a boat looming just 15 to 25 feet above them can be detected. Now an anchored boat will probably not scare the fish to death, but they may be inclined to swim around it from 20 to 30 feet on either side. Some will undoubtedly swim right under the boat and if your bait is seen they will most likely hit it. However, more fish will be at that 20 or 30 foot distance and therefore, more will see your bait if you cast out.

The second reason casting out pays off is that the bait will lie on the bottom in a more natural looking way due to sloping angle of the line. When you drop straight down the angle is a 90 degree one right up to the tip of your rod. Another thing to do to attract more hits is jigging. Lift your rod tip up a few feet and then down again until you feel the sinker tap the bottom. Wait a few seconds and repeat the process. If you get a solid hit then just raise the rod tip up and start reeling. If the hit is more of a pick-up, then wait until the fish starts to run with it. When it does, then give the rod a fairly good yank to set the hook. Don't worry so much about numbers when fishing and enjoy the ones that you catch. Numbers aren't everything when it comes to fishing. If they were, I might have given up a long time ago!

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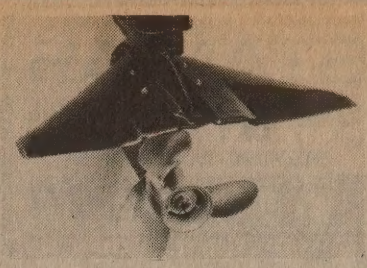

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CHRIS CRAFT
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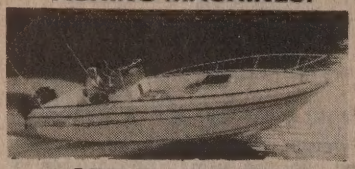

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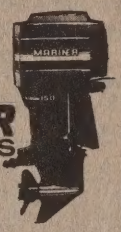

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Dock Lines

by Eric Burnley

Dear Eric,

I read your columns in The Fisherman first when I receive my issue. I hope you can help me out with this inquiry.

I saw a boat called "Privateer" and am very interested in buying one. First, I would like to know what type of hull it has. Where I could see one and if it is possible to water test it.' What type of motors are available and what horsepower capacity is required.

I would appreciate it greatly if you could give me your opinion about this boat.

John Pulli.

Dear John,

The Privateer is a very strong and stable boat that makes a perfect platform for inshore fishing. They are constructed of fiberglass and designed to serve as commercial fishing work boats.

I don't know what options are available from the factory to convert the boat into a sport fishing craft, but you can contact Privateer Boats, P.O. Box 69, Chocowinty, NC 27817 or phone (919) 946-7772 to get more information plus the name of your closest dealer.

The Privateers I am familiar with are used by anglers who fish the Delaware and Chesapeake Bay or the waters behind the barrier islands of Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. The boats have a bottom design that draws very little water and requires a fairly small engine to get them up on plane. They are economical to buy and to maintain which helps to increase their popularity.

If you have any plans to fish offshore in the ocean this may not be the ideal boat. The same bottom design that lets the boat run so well in shallow water has a tendency to bounce you around a bit in a big sea. You can be perfectly comfortable and safe with this boat in the ocean so long as it is not too rough.

The horsepower required to plane these boats is calculated separately for each model. Your dealer will help you decide how big your engine must be to get the job done. The most practical choice is normally something less than the maximum power as listed by the Coast Guard on the boat's identification plate.

* * *

Dear Eric,

I have been shopping for a bass boat for more than a year and the more I look the more confused I become. Some of my fishing buddies feel a full fledged high powered boat is the only way to go while I really don't think all that equipment and speed is necessary.

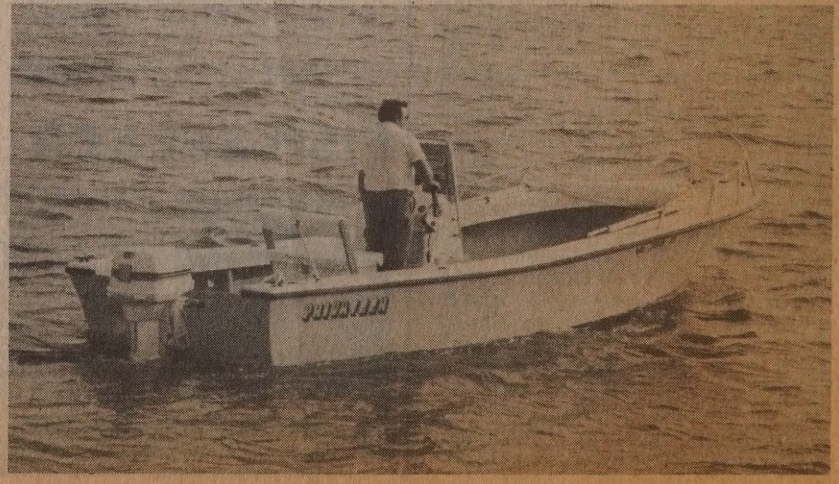
Do you have any recommendations for a bass boat that would be used on both tidal rivers and local ponds or lakes? I am also confused about depth finders. Do I really need one of those expensive LCD or paper units? Can't I get by with just a flasher?

Raymond C. Gegner, Jr.

Dear Ray,

You should consider two factors when buying any boat. First, what will the boat be used for and second, how much can I afford to spend? You have told us how you plan to use the boat, but only you know how much to spend.

It is not necessary to have a super fast boat to catch bass in the waters you describe. The idea of using such boats began with big money tournament fishermen who felt they had to be the first boat on a hotspot if they



were going to catch enough fish to win.

Unfortunately, too many fishermen are now driving these fast boats on waters where various other user groups contend for space. This is creating hard feelings towards all fishermen and is also a potential safety risk. Any time you have a boat going more than 25 or 30 miles per hour, the probability of a serious accident increases dramatically. This risk is compounded if slower boats, skiers and swimmers are also using the same water. Even if you have the entire lake or river to yourself the impact of hitting a submerged object at 50, 60 or even greater speeds can be fatal.

I suggest you buy a bass boat that is large enough to hold you, a companion or two and your equipment. Something 17 to 18 feet in length made of fiberglass or aluminum and powered by a mid-range outboard. As long as the motor will cruise at 25 miles per hour you should be able to fish anywhere you want to go during a day.

You should look for a model with as many standard bass fishing features as possible. It is much easier and probably will cost less to buy a boat that already has a live well, pedestal seats, mounting hardware for your electrical trolling motor, rod racks, battery storage and all the other options you might require.

If your finances can afford one of the LCD or paper machines I think you will find them well worth the expense. Flashers will let you know how deep the water is and you can learn to read what type of bottom you are over and locate fish with them but the LCD and paper machines are much easier to use and can tell you much more about what is in the water under your boat.

* * *

Dear Eric,

I own a 12 foot aluminum boat that weighs 94 pounds. Is there any company that makes a 12 foot trailer. The only ones I've run into are for boats 13 to 15 feet. *J. Coombs.*

Dear Mr. Coombs:

I checked with a local dealer, Carlisle's Marine, and they recommend the Cox Trailer Model CF 450 for your 12 foot boat. This trailer will carry 450 pounds, so it should more than handle your load. If you fish in saltwater, you may want Model CF 450G, which is galvanized.

You can get the name of your local Cox Trailer dealer by contacting the factory, P.O. Box 339, Grifton, NC 28530 or phone (919) 524-4111.

Another possibility for transporting your boat is a car top rack. Most of the auto supply stores carry a line of racks suitable for use with a boat of 12 feet in length. It is more difficult to get a boat off the top of your car than off of a tailer, but many people prefer cartopping because they don't have to license a trailer or pay the extra tolls when towing a trailer on the interstate.

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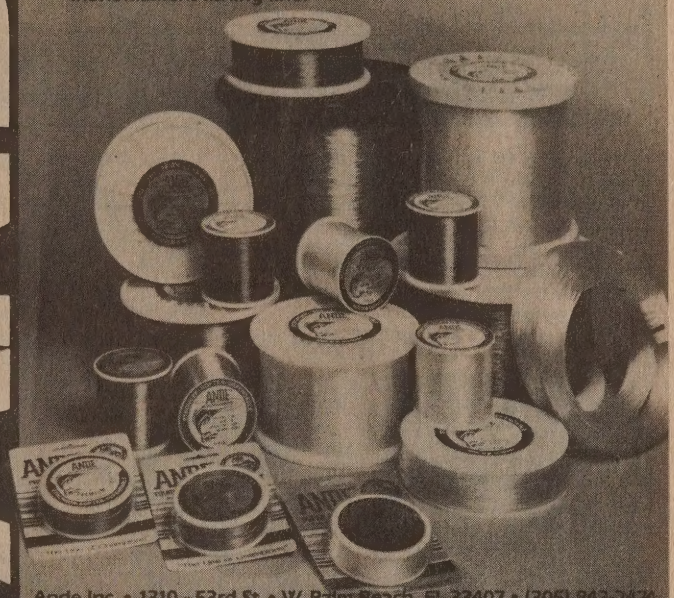

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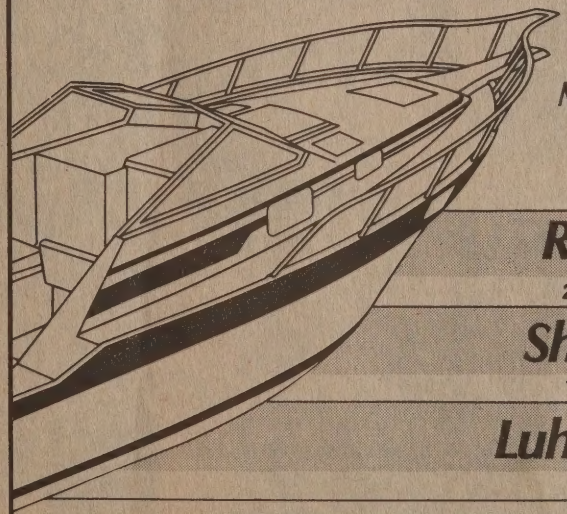

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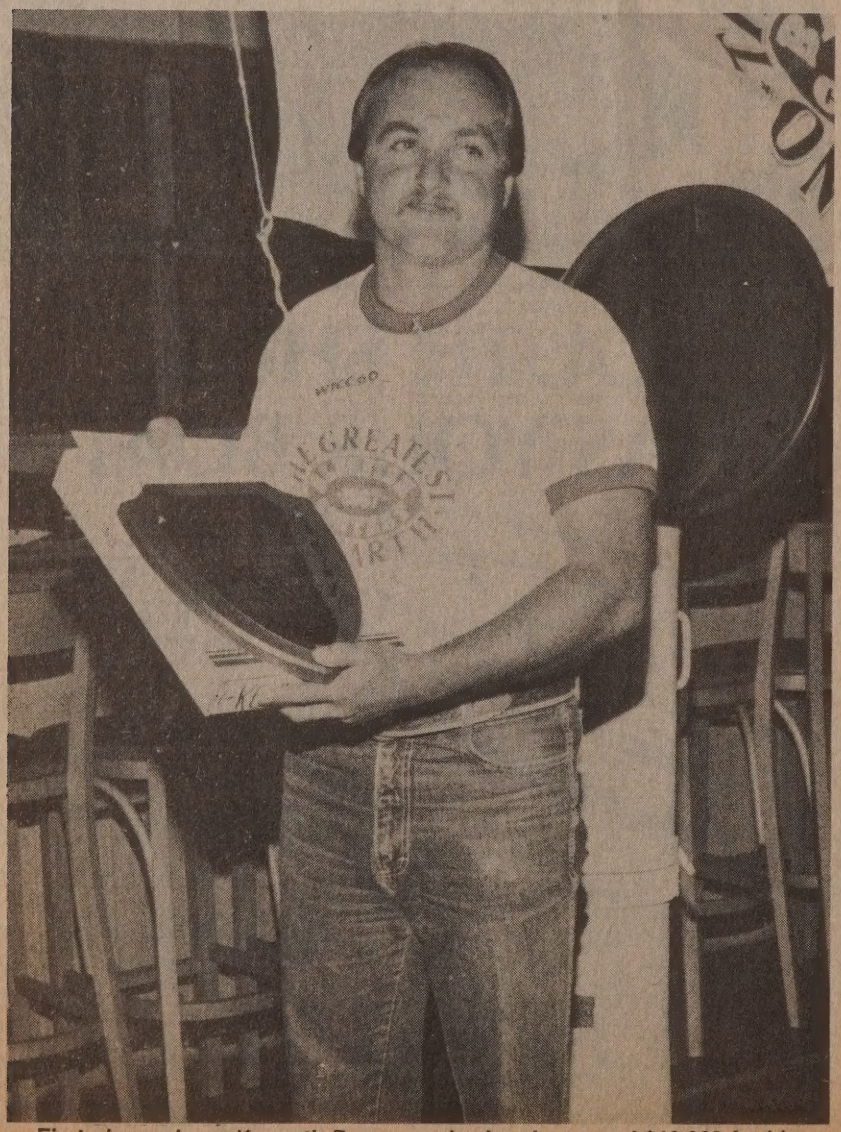
WICC Contest Results

by Dick Alley

The contest had over 6200 entries from as far away as New Jersey and Rhode Island.

Well, they've done it again. Ray Gardella and his phenomenal staff at Radio Station WICC, Bridgeport, Connecticut, call it the "Greatest Bluefish Contest on Earth," and each and every season outdo themselves from the year before, to make sure it holds that reputation.

Ray proudly points to daughter Susan, this year's Contest Coordinator, for bringing it all together. "In 1986, we had approximately 4900 entries," said Susan. "This year, we did over 6200 entries." WICC did more than that. They expanded the contest, getting applicants from as far away as New Jersey and Rhode Island. Weigh stations were increased, and so were those outlets handling and processing applications.



First place winner Kenneth Bruno received a plaque and $10,000 for his 19.08 pound bluefish.

This year, just after the opening bell, an additional ten $1,000 cash prizes were added to the awards, bringing a grand total of 20 winners. First prize was $10,000; second prize $5,000, and third prize $3,000. The other 17 money winners each collected $1,000.

The main headquarters was again Captains Cove in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and this was also the spot where the prizes were awarded the following Tuesday. Where were all the fish caught? The list of winners and weigh in locations gives us a hint.

First Place, $10,000: Bluefish, Kenneth Bruno, 19.08 lbs. Weighed at Rudy's Tackle Barn in Greenwich.

Second Place, $5,000: Bluefish, Richard Jaworski, 18.97 lbs. Weighed at Caraftis Bait and Tackle, Port Jefferson, New York.

Third Place, $3,000: Bluefish, Joe Berber, 18.42 lbs. Weighed at Rudy's Tackle Barn in Greenwich.

Fourth through Twentieth Places, $1,000: Bluefish, listed as follows:

Earl Endrich, 18.30 lbs. Weighed in at River's End Bait and Tackle, Old Saybrook.

Ernest Beerman, 18.19 lbs. Weighed at Four Winds in Huntington, New York.

Bob Sampson, 18.02 lbs. Weighed at River's End Bait and Tackle in Old Saybrook.

George Vitiello, 17.77 lbs. Weighed at Fisherman's World in E. Norwalk.

Jim Piacenta, 17.54 lbs. Weighed at Four Winds in Huntington, New York.

Elmer Deluca, 17.31 lbs. Weighed at Rudy's Tackle Barn in Greenwich.

Fransico Rios, 17.23 lbs. Weighed at Jack's Bait and Tackle, City Island, New York.

Anthony Masi, 16.91 lbs. Weighed at Rudy's Tackle Barn, Greenwich.

Kenton O'Neal, 16.76 lbs. Weighed in at Branford.

Fransico Rios, 16.57 lbs. Weighed in at City Island, New York.

Miles Bonam, 16.44 lbs. Weighed in at Rudy's Tackle Barn, Greenwich.

Don Chiapetta, 16.41 lbs. Weighed in at Rudy's Tackle Barn, Greenwich.

Fransico Rios, 16.22 lbs. Weighed in at City Island, New York.

Al Savarese, 16.14 lbs. Weighed in at Four Winds, Huntington, New York.

Vito Randazzo, 16.11 lbs. Weighed in at Four Winds, Huntington, New York.

Mark Ranaldo, 16.09 lbs. Weighed in at Four Winds, Huntington, New York.

Richard Bloom, 16.04 lbs. Weighed in at River's End Bait and Tackle, Old Saybrook.

To summarize, six money winning fish were weighed in in Greenwich, and can be presumed to have been caught in or near those waters. They included first and third place fish. Five more winning fish were weighed in in Huntington, New York, only a short jump across Long Island Sound. It's noteworthy that in doing my weekly reports, these two locations have

been producing consistently all season long. The second prize was garnered by an angler fishing outside Port Jefferson, New York, which coincidentally enjoyed spectacular bluefishing only a few days before the contest. One fish came into Norwalk, Conn., which until a week before the contest had been one of the hottest spots through the entire season. Unfortunately, a large bunker kill marred fishing there a couple of weeks prior to the contest. Three fish were weighed in at City Island, New York and were all caught by the same fisherman, who apparently hit a good school in one spot. A single winner came from Branford and there were three winners weighed in, in Old Saybrook, where anglers had just become involved in the contest for the first time this season. While Greenwich waters have always been a hotspot, the well distributed spread of winning fish accentuates the fact that anybody and everybody has a chance in this contest. Again this season, no tagged fish were caught during the contest. It will happen sometime. We can count on it.

Weights of the individual fish again ranged from a low of 16.04 lbs., to a high of 19.08 lbs. That's only a smidgen over 3 pounds, over a spread of 20 fish. This also points out the conscientious effort by the weigh stations to maintain fairness and accuracy throughout the contest.

My earlier unofficial list of winners differs from the list included in this story. Suffice to say again that contest officials did their job and two fish were disqualified during the verification procedure, awarding the prizes to two anglers who had earlier been bumped. If this contest had any negative aspect to it at all, it was the failure of potential winners to show up at Captains Cove during the closing hours of the contest.

Captains Cove is a fun place, especially during this contest every year. A fine restaurant, beautiful marina, excursion boats, the HMS Rose, shops, etc., all combine to make this an exciting place to be any day. On busy weekends, bands provide outdoor music, there are crab races for the kids and plenty of excitement for all.

Anthony Masi, who came in 11th in the contest, drove up from White Plains, a very happy angler at winning $1,000. He, too, was amazed that other winners weren't there for the excitement. Lots of anglers like to fish until the last minute and others probably don't want to make the drive on Sunday and then come back up on Tuesday, but it's not a chore. It's fun time. Tony sure had a smile on his face when I took his photo. Hopefully, next year it will be a group shot.

There will be a next year. I expect it will be a little bit bigger and even more exciting. We might even break that 20 pound mark for the winning fish. Congratulations to all of the winners and to WICC for another "Greatest Bluefish Contest on Earth."

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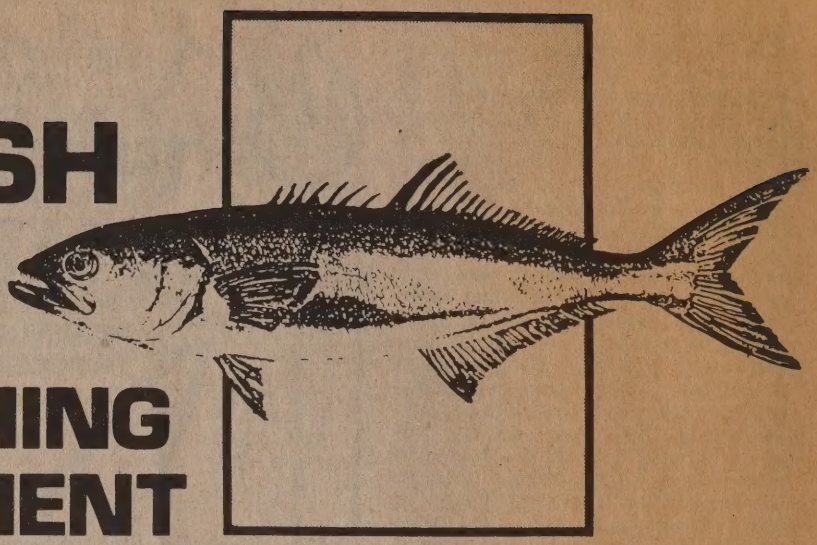

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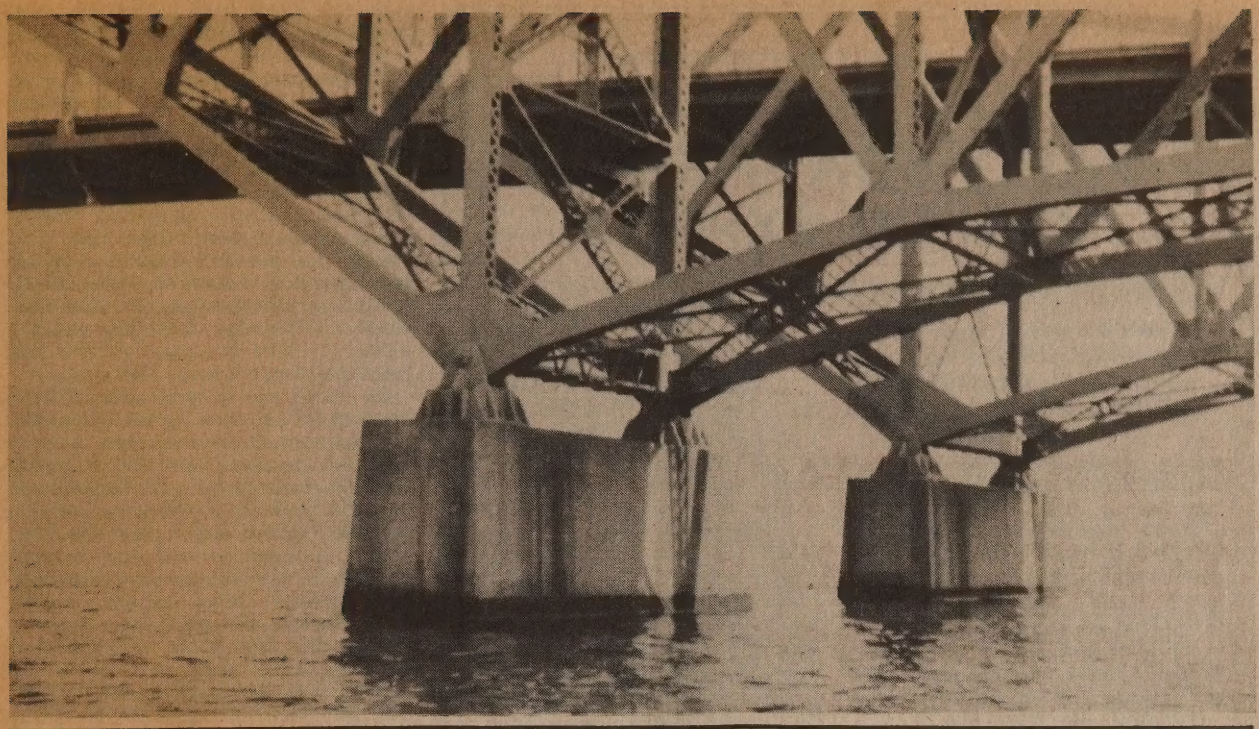

ABUTMENTS OF TOG

by Charles A. Witek

I grew up along the Connecticut shore of Long Island Sound, a coastline noted for deep, rocky harbors and rubble-strewn bottoms. Naturally, I became quite familiar with blackfish. Every fall, I sought them among barnacle-encrusted boulders, where heavy shouldered fish would take the bait, then do their best to cut my line on an obstruction before being dragged free of their refuge.

When I moved to the south shore of Long Island, I was somewhat dismayed to learn that there was sand and silt **everywhere**. I always knew that Great South Bay had a soft bottom, but it had never occurred to me that there would be no rocks at all. My apprehension eased when I learned that man-made structures made up, in part, for the absence of natural blackfish habitat.

Local fishermen told me of a number of productive blackfish grounds located within the bay. Kismet Reef, an artificial structure just east of the Fire Island Lighthouse, was the most often mentioned. But the breakwater surrounding the Fire Island Coast Guard Station, the pilings of the Robert Moses Bridge and a number of small, vaguely described wrecks were also purported to hold fish. I set out to catch them, only to discover that Kismet, while sometimes productive, was a bustling mass of private and party boats on any weekend during the blackfish season. Collisions occurred. It was an uncomfortable place to fish, and I left it, only to learn that the Coast Guard prohibited anchoring within 100 yards of the station breakwater. Being new to the area, and having no idea where to find the bay wrecks, I was left with the bridge.

At first glance, the smooth, concrete and stone bridge abutments seemed meager structure, despite the clumps of algae and barnacles that could be seen clinging to their sides. However, the bridge's supports did not rise from a clean sand bottom. Instead, they were surrounded by tons of boulders and smaller stones, placed to prevent the surging currents from washing sand away from them and undermining the bridge. This debris contributed to the fish-holding potential of the area. But I still had to learn how to fish it.

First came the problem of keeping the boat over the fish. Blackfish are very structure-oriented and are extremely reluctant to move even a foot or two from their craggy homes. In my initial attempts to fish the bridge pilings, I anchored between the abutments and cast my fiddler crab-baited rig uptide of the structure. The swirling current, pushing against both the rig and the belly in the line, quickly carried the hooks away from the bridge. When, after a few tries, I managed to read the drift well enough to get the bait somewhere near the edge of the rough bottom, it was quickly overwhelmed by a cloud of bergalls. I couldn't even feel their nips, but the hook came back empty.

Next, I tried anchoring upcurrent from the bridge. But a combination of running tide and prevailing breeze swung the boat from side to side, making it very difficult to keep the bait on a productive piece of bottom.

The solution was to forget about anchoring altogether, and tie up to the bridge. Many fishermen cringe at the thought, fearing damage to their vessel. However, the maneuver is both safe and simple. I just tie a boat fender to the end of a long length of 1/4 inch polypropelene and coil the line in my hand, then approach a bridge abutment from downtide, letting the abutment pass to windward of the boat. Each abutment supports two pilings. When broadside to the abutment, I put the boat's engine in neutral, throw the fender between the pilings and follow it up with a bit of slack line. Then, depending on the strength and direction of the breeze, I back or drift downtide and pick the fender up when it drifts past the other side of the abutment, tie both ends of the line to the boat's bow or stern cleats so that the boat

(Continued on next page.)

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rides 6 or 8 feet from the bridge, and drop a bait to the bottom.

When the wind is unusually strong and hampers maneuvering near the bridge, I tie fenders to both ends of the line. Then, after the first fender is thrown between the pilings, I drop the second into the water alongside the bridge. In this way, I can maneuver the boat without worrying about dragging the thrown fender back between the pilings when the wind blows the boat away from them. Both fenders drift downtide, on opposite sides of the bridge, until they can be picked up below the abutment and the line made fast.

By tying up in this way, I can position a boat directly over productive bottom and, consequently, blackfish. I can also fish the shortest possible line, allowing me to feel not only the blackfish's distinctive strike, but also the nature of the bottom. The rubble dumped around the bridge abutments forms a pattern of peaks and valleys. Only bergalls, small blackfish and pin sea bass seem to feed on the high spots, while larger fish lurk in the holes.

Fishermen disagree on the proper bait for blackfish. But in the fall, when fishing the bridge, there is only one real choice: green crabs. Cut in half, with the hook inserted in one leg socket and out another, one green crab makes two big, tough baits that appeal to bigger blacks and resist the advances of undersized blackfish, sea bass and bergalls. Fiddler crabs are a fair second choice if green crabs are unavailable. They catch mainly small fish, and seem to hold little appeal for bigger ones. They are a much more fragile bait than the greens, and more susceptible to theft. Soft baits, like clams and worms, aren't worth consideration.

Hook selection is uncomplicated. The Virginia pattern, with its heavy wire and short barb designed to penetrate a black's rubbery lips, is by far the best choice. Use a #4 hook with green crabs and a #6 if fiddlers are the only bait available. Although some fishermen rig two hooks in high-low or tandem fashion, it is better to fasten a single hook about three inches above the sinker. The bottom at the base of the bridge abutments is very "sticky," and the use of a single hook will cut down on the number of snags, lost rigs and lost fish, while having little impact on the day's bag. Sinkers need only be heavy enough to hold bottom, but at times this can be a chore. Depending on the stage of the tide, 2 to 6 ounces will usually be adequate although, when the current is at its peak, 10 or 12 ounces might be needed. When the tide is running, lighter sinkers can be used by dropping the baited rig into the eddy that forms downtide of each abutment. Within the eddy, the water swirls slowly, making the heaviest sinkers unnecessary and making it easier for the unstreamlined blackfish to hunt for food.

Rods used for blackfishing should

be sturdy enough to handle the heavy sinkers comfortably. They also must have enough backbone to pry a hooked fish out from between boulders before it can dive into a crevice and cut or hopelessly snag the line. At the same time, "broomstick" rods are undesirable, since a fisherman must be able to feel the fish's distinctive bite. Lines must also be able to stand the abrasion inherent in the blackfish's environment. Pink Ande is notable in this respect, and that line, in 20 to 30 pound test, should serve well.

Having assembled the proper tackle and bait, the first task is to decide just where and when to fish. The bridge has well over a dozen supports, extending from the beach at Captree State Park to the north shore of Fire Island. I normally fish the pilings on the north end of the bridge, as they seem to be the most productive. Precisely which piling I fish depends on how many boats reached the bridge ahead of me, and where they are tied up or anchored. The tying-up procedure requires a bit of maneuvering room, and I won't crowd another boat, even if it is anchored up and fishing the unproductive bottom between the pilings. Unless the bridge is unusually crowded, there will be room somewhere, as most boatmen, afraid of venturing too near to the pilings, give the bridge a wide berth.

Mid-September sees the beginning of the fall blackfish run, which peaks during the first few weeks of October. It continues, if less intensely, until cooling waters chase the fish offshore sometime in November. The fishing is entirely a daylight proposition and is governed, to some degree, by the stage of the tide. The worst time to fish is at the peak of the current, when blackfish find it difficult to buck the water flow and anglers have a hard time keeping their baits still on the bottom. But even at this time, fish can be caught in the eddies behind boulders or in the big eddy behind the bridge itself. I have always had my best luck when the tide was flowing, but slowly enough to allow me to hold bottom with no more than 6 ounces of lead. Although I have taken fish at dead slack water, it usually seems that fishing drops off when there is no current at all. However, many good blackfishermen dispute this observation, and contend that slack water is the best time to catch the largest fish.

Once I have selected a piling and tied up to the bridge, I lower my bait to the bottom. As soon as it hits, I move the sinker gently across the bottom, assessing its contours and trying to keep my bait off the top of a rock. When I am satisfied that the bait is lying alongside a good piece of structure, I take any slack out of the line, settle down, and wait for action, always taking care to keep the bait absolutely still. Blackfish rarely strike a moving bait.

The moment the bait touches bottom, bergalls, sea bass, and perhaps small blackfish begin nipping at the flesh and innards of the crab that were exposed when the bait was sliced in half. I ignore the tapping. It takes awhile for those little fish to strip a piece of green crab from the hook. But when a quick series of stronger taps is telegraphed up the line, it means that a blackfish has arrived. An instant later, when I feel a stronger tug, I drive the hook home and, with the same upward sweep, lift the fish out of the rocks and toward the surface.

After a brief up-and-down battle, the fish will be at boatside. Most are hooked firmly in the thick lips or gristly mouth parts, and can be swung aboard without fear of loss. A net can come in handy for the occasional larger or poorly hooked fish. However, large fish are rare at the bridge. An average sized blackfish will weigh between one and three pounds. Anything over 5 pounds is notable and anything over 8 is a trophy. But what the fish lack in size, they more than make up for in numbers. It is far from unusual for one angler to take 40 or more fish on a tide, although many of those will be throwbacks of less than a pound in weight.

Even if the fish are smaller than those I knew in the Sound, they are blackfish. And I can catch them every fall, in a sand-bottomed bay, under the Robert Moses Bridge.

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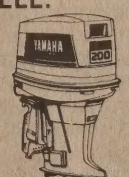

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WINTER FLOUNDER: AN EASY MARK?

by Matt Ahern

Thirteen years ago I began a similar article as this by saying "There's no doubt flounder are easy marks for the baited hook." And I recall that perhaps a score of Fisherman readers wrote me and said: "No kidding, Matt." "Tell us something we don't know, not what we do know." Or words to that effect. It seems everyone was having no difficulty filling the bucket. Thirteen years ago, that is.

But now? Well, now we have to work for our fish. I won't go into detail as to why I think this is so (it would take much too long), but the fact is that it is so.

Okay—what do we do about it?

First, make up your mind that there is more to flounder fishing than putting bait on the hook. Yes, I know, I've said that dozens of times, but, gosh darn it, my mail shows that few of you take me seriously. For shame. Here's this old gray head, serious as all get out, trying to put fish in your bucket—and many of you don't pay attention. Again, for shame. Sometimes I feel like packing it in. So help me.

Let's see what we can do to remedy the situation.

There are many arguments pro and con, but the majority of flounder fishermen feel that to produce fish in quantity (not fish hogs, mind you), there is no better method than to use the advantages of a boat.

There's more to this fishing, however, than jumping into the nearest skiff and heading for that fishy-looking water. I'll admit that this may appear to be otherwise to a beginner who sees fishermen returning wtih full buckets of fat flounder. The novice often feels all that's necessary is to rent a skiff, put in the tackle, bait, lunch, whip up the outboard and take off. From then on, this fellow believes that the fish automatically follow with the same ease.

Huh!

It doesn't take long to discover there's more to catching flounder (or any fish) than meets the eye. There are no dumb fish, fellers. And the sooner this is taken as gospel, the sooner will those sought-after fish fill the bucket. There may be voracious fish, such as bluefish, who seem to accept everything offered. (I've had days when they didn't—days when they could be seen milling in the chum but refused the hook; which goes to show that we fishermen have much to learn.) And if this is so, why can't flounder put on the finicky act, too? They can, and they do.

But you can cut your chances of this happening more than somewhat if you learn to do several necessary things required to put fish in that bucket.

First and most important is to remember this: flounder must be hunted. Our flat friend doesn't dash madly about chasing down food as do weaks and blues. Instead they fan out slowly in choice feeding areas, leisurely selecting a tidbit here, and a tidbit there. The sad part of this is that you may be in one of those choice feeding areas and the fish may be on a feeding binge, but if your selected spot doesn't offer the right conditions, you will bring home few flounder. Often a move of a mere 25 feet makes all the difference in the world.

"It doesn't take long to discover that there is more to catching flounder than meets the eye."

How do you go about finding the whereabouts of those feeding fish? Not too difficult. You can anchor in the area others are catching fish; which actually isn't very sporting and is likely to cause dissension and unkind words should you fish too close. Much better to fish a likely-looking spot in 12 to 15 feet of water and lower the anchor. Don't forget—this is how those other fish-producing spots were found. No one waved a magic wand. They were found by enterprising fishermen willing to "check it out."

Fish your selected spot for at least 20 minutes. If several flounder are caught (which is usually the case but no guarantee the fish are in great numbers), break out the chum pot, or toss over a dozen or so cracked mussels and give the main body of fish time to zero in on this windfall. When using cracked mussel, toss them into the current so that they will come to rest near your baited hooks. Try to gauge it as accurately as possible; you don't want your prey giving the bits and pieces of mussel a merry chase out of your area.

If there's no real action after a reasonable time (say 30 minutes), lift the anchor and either move to another spot and try again, or drift until fish are found. Don't become discouraged; it may take several moves to locate fish.

Heck—you may be lucky and anchor over fish on the first drop; this happens to all of us. But as a rule, it is better to move about if fish don't respond in a reasonable time.

Flounder like a moderate amount of water overhead, and because this is so it is important to note the rise and fall of the tide. Should you locate fish on a falling tide and the fish show signs of slowing down as the tide drops further, be prepared to make a move to deeper water (closer to a channel, if possible). Reverse this on a rising tide. Doing this always pays off.

Nothing puts flounder in the bucket as does the use of chum. Long gone are the days when a fisherman could simply anchor up in a likely looking spot and stay there all day pulling flounder. Therefore, never be in a hurry to leave an area you've chummed. This is especially important when fishing on a rising tide. Give those fish time! At least those 30 minutes. And if the tide is close to the high water mark, stay put. Many times the first two hours of a dropping tide will give you a bonanza you never thought possible.

I recall one fall day flounder fishing on the flats near buoy 9 in Island Park's Reynolds Channel. I was with Nick Hauck "the man with the golden touch" when it comes to flounder fishing. The action was nil—maybe three or four runts. The tide was approaching its high water mark and I had another spot in mind. But when I suggested a move to Nick, he said: "What are you, some kind of nut? All that chum down there and you want to move. Won't you ever learn?"

"But I..."

"But me no buts, Jack. You just wait till that tide turns. Then we'll go."

But when that tide turned, we didn't

have to go. We caught flounder for three hours like there was no tomorrow—nice, fat fall flounder. So take a tip from the "man with the golden touch" and wait out those fish.

For their size, flounder are sporty little fish and they'll give you one peppy battle after another. I sure enjoy flounder fishing. But this wasn't always so. When I first began flounder fishing over 60 years ago, I used a drop line. Yank 'em in. Fun—but not sport. Then I had a rod and reel (and in those days flounder rods had the resiliency of a telephone pole). A little better, but nothing to brag about. Then after the war spinning tackle appeared and the flounder fisherman came into his own.

You'll find a light spinning outfit with 6 or 8 pound test monofilament gives the most enjoyment. And there's a plus, too. This tackle is extremely sensitive to the lightest biting flounder, helping you to catch the "wise guys."

With such an outfit, you can get by with light bank sinkers. These should be the lightest possible for the area you intend fishing. Two ounces will probably do it. If you must use more than this, I'd think of finding another spot—and for sure, I wouldn't use four ounces. I've fished areas where a one ounce sinker was all that was required. (Most of the time the fishing is good in such areas.)

Two #9 or #10 Chestertown hooks tied tandem will get you fish. So will two #6 regular shanked Sproats. If you are a newcomer to our game, I suggest you first try the Chestertown pattern. They are much easier to remove. There's really nothing difficult about removing a #6 Sproat, but some fellows do complain until they get the hang of it.

When tandem-tied and placed two inches above the sinker, with or without the aid of a three-way swivel, your hooks will always be on bottom. Flounder are strictly bottom feeders; they seldom rise off bottom no matter how tempting your bait.

Fishermen often find flounder fussy in their choice of bait. Some days blood or sandworms will be all that's needed; on other days, clam does better. The wise skiff fisherman takes a supply of each.

Clam, and this can be either skimmer (fresh only), or hard clam (chowders), or soft clam (steamers), should be cut into narrow 1½ slices. Any flounder large enough to keep will have no trouble getting it down. Allow the barb to protrude about 1/4 inch from the end. This not only gives the bait a more natural look, making it easy to swallow, but assures certain hooking. Worm bait should be fished the same way.

Anyway, I'd give skiff fishing for flounder a try this fall. There's lots of nice weather on hand, cool, crisp and invigorating, bringing thoughts of good days ahead to come. Especially is this so when the fish cooperate.

And I got a hunch they just might do that.

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BIGHT OF SCUP

by Capt. Tom Hastings

The season may be short, but New York Bight boatmen do enjoy some quality porgy action.

Quality porgy fishing along the stretches of the New York Bight must endure the shortest run of any migrant fish we encounter. While Montauk may offer great porgy fishing from June through November, we "unfortunates" must simply live with the fact that our season is limited to the months of September and October. Only now will any substantial number of large porgies be caught with any consistency. Those of us who patiently wait are often blessed with a good run of fish.

While just about all of my fishing partners and clients are busy concerting their efforts toward shark, tuna or bluefish, I really look forward to my porgy season. Now that's not to say that I do not feel thoroughly comfortable fishing offshore for the various pelagic species; no way. I simply mean that by the time September rolls along the change of pace is a welcome one.

Fishermen plying the waters of the Bight for scup before the month of September are content to catch fish commonly known as sand porgies, or fish that weigh a half pound or less. These fish are not worth the effort in my book. The fish I am concerned with are the big guys or humpbacks, and weigh over a pound. September sees an influx of these bigger fish, with many two and three pounders mixed in to make things very interesting.

The local party boats that advertise porgy fishing in the Bight usually do so with blackfish and/or sea bass sharing the same bill. It is true that both of these species do, in fact, in habit the same areas as the porgy, but it is my opinion that the porgy must be tracked more fervently than the others. Both blackfish and sea bass are a "set up camp" species that wil settle into a given area for long periods before the natural cycle of movement tells them to leave. The ocean porgy, on the other hand, is a nomad. Traveling in large schools and unlike their little inshore relatives, sea porgies tend to move in "waves" through their expanse, shifting from place to place throughout the day. Learning to track them can be serious business, especially for the beginner. There are, however, several tried and true methods whic can indeed help turn the odds in our favor.

As mentioned earlier, small sand porgies (1/4 to 1/2 pounds) can be as thick as fleas on a dog in the back bays and creeks around the Bight, often found over mud bottom. Our quarry in comparison, is happiest in ocean water of 25 or more feet deep and are always found around structure. Now, structure does not necessarily mean finding a piece of bottom that resembles the U.N. building. Structure simply means a patch of rock strewn or mussel bed bottom in which a depression or shallow, a productive "hole" may be just three or four feet deeper than the surrounding water. Tracking large porgies means finding and properly maneuvering over these holes in order to be successful.

Typically, I will run to the general area I plan to fish and keep the chart recorder running until I find a hole, at which time a marker buoy is tossed over the side to pinpoint the spot. (Be certain to drop the marker over the area of the boat that the transducer is

(Continued on next page.)

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mounted on.)

Unlike with blackfishing, anchoring is not as crucial an endeavor with porgy fishing. It is important, however, to move up on the spot with as little noise as possible. Big porgies scare easily. Quietly lower the anchor uptide and slip back as close to the marker as possible.

Once in position, our next priority is to chum. Chumming is mandatory when seeking humpbacks and is essentially the same as chumming for flounder. Fill a chum pot with crushed mussel and send it to the bottom. Over the past several years we have gotten into the practice of using fish store-bought blue mussel for chum. They are not only just as effective as the common bank mussel chum normally used, but are much less expensive. I will usually purchase a 30 pound bag for one tide of fishing and the price comes out to roughly $12. Not bad. Every 30 minutes or so sweeten the pot with fresh chum to keep the juices flowing.

Tackle is an easy trick. Throughout the Bight, water current and depth are very similar from place to place, and therefore can be dealt with, with only minor adjustments having to be made. With all of my fishing, I try to employ the lightest tackle possible. With porgy fishing, light equipment is standard. I have the best time watching my guys catch porgies on light tackle, even more so than with any other species. While fishing for bass or bluefish, for instance, can be outrageous fun utilizing the "fairy wand," many times strikes and landing fish do not balance out. More often than not, a parted line and a lost fish is the norm when using the light stuff on these gamesters. Porgies are a different story. You see, porgies are a prolific fish—that is, where there is one porgy, there are hundreds. Since numbers are of no concern, I can take the "oh, well" approach when a fish is lost. There will be plenty left down there to keep everyone's undivided attention. I usually start off using medium tapered rods matched to Penn 930 reels, filled with 15 pound test Ande monofilament. If after landing several fish one of my people feels really "cocky," I'll switch him (or her) over to the lightest flounder rod I have on board. Big porgies are hard fighters that put real sport into using light tackle.

Hooks and sinkers are an easy chore. Number 8 or 9 short shanked Sproat hooks, or my favorites, #6 Virginia hooks (yes, small blackfish hooks) will do the job. Unless you plan to fish at times corresponding with the full moon period, bank sinkers in the 2 to 5 ounce range will be sufficient.

The difference between Rockaway Point and Montauk may be 120 miles, but the bait is always the same. Clam. Fresh skimmer clam just can't be beat when it comes to catching scup. Some of my cronies may find argument with this statement, saying worm bait sometimes will take precedence, but

it is my experience that 99 percent of the time, clam bait is Filet Mignon to the porgy. (Bring along a couple of worms just in case.)

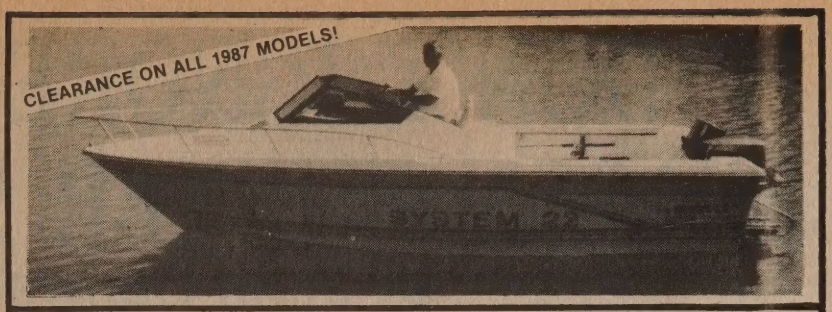
Sea porgies may take some time to respond to the chum below. If situated in the hole correctly (close to the marker buoy) it may take 15 minutes or so to get action.

Porgies will take a bait with a style all their own—like machine gun fire! Drop your baits down and be prepared instantly. Veteran anglers swear that they must strike back with the rod "before the porgy bites." Now this may seem like an overstatement, but the basic roots are true. Sea porgies hit so hard and so fast that many anglers have trouble setting the hook before they know what is happening. Concentration is absolutely necessary to avoid being cleaned every time a rig is sent down. At the very instant a bite is detected, a snap of the wrist will (hopefully) ensure a porgy in the end of the line.

As mentioned earlier, I have found over the years that big porgies move in "waves" and must be "tracked." It must be understood that this does not mean we have to navigate all over the place to find a school of fish. We are already at anchor and our chum slick is dispersing its elixir. It merely means that as we drop our lines down to the designated area below, we will from time to time encounter lulls in the action as the fish swim by. What we must try to do is follow the school with our baits, or track them down as they move through the hole. With several fishermen on board (my "Key to the Sea" holds four), this is easily accomplished. Each angler should cast out in different directions until a porgy is hooked. Once a fish is landed, everyone can join in on the fun. As the school shifts direction, the process is repeated. After awhile, you will see a pattern form as the fish move "right to left" or "front to back."

From late August to mid-September, humpbacks will be found in water ranging from 25 to 40 feet deep. The artificial reef at Rockaway can be most productive at this time as can the 30' depressions of the Shrewsbury Rocks. NOAA chart #12327 outlines these areas very clearly. By late September big scup will have been caught around the various inshore wrecks and mussel beds. The Tin Can Grounds were extremely productive for us in 1985, and I am looking forward to more of the same this year, after a two year lay-off. The only detrimental factor there was the heavy boat traffic in and out of the inlet—that put a damper on the fishing.

If you hit them just right, it is not unusual to bag 20 or 30 big porgies—solo. Aboard the "Key to the Sea," the record shows we bagged 151 big scup fishing September 31st from a Staten Island mussel bed. (Good fishing!) Be sure to get out there fast; it'll be over before you know it. Good luck.



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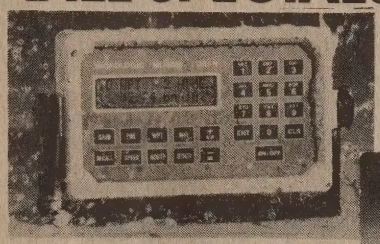

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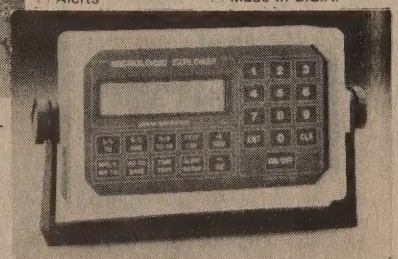

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DON'T IGNORE LATE SEASON BUNKER SCHOOLS

by John Conway

When the weather turns cool, bluefishing heats up in Long Island Sound harbors.

Almost every bluefisherman on the Northeast coast has taken bluefish from under bunker schools. Sometimes the bunker schools hold a lot of blues and other times there only seems to be a few blues under about 20 million bunker! You can spend a lot of time fishing these schools with very little to show for it.

Just about every harbor and river mouth develops a resident population of bunker during the summer months. At first the local anglers tend to fish the bunker schools hard with limited results. As the offshore bluefishing gets better the locals ignore the same bunker schools that drew a lot of attention back in July. When the weather starts to get cold you should stop and investigate those all too familiar schools. You could have the wildest bluefishing of your life and possibly a true trophy fish.

I became aware of this fall fishing a few years ago on a very cold Saturday morning. It was the second week of October and I was headed out to the jigging grounds with two rookies who wanted to experience some of the bluefishing that I am always bragging about. On my way out of the harbor I saw a pod of bunker being worked over by some blues. I motored over to the school and cast a large swimming plug into it with no results. I decided to leave for the jigging grounds that were hot for the past month. We jigged for three hours with only two fish to show for our efforts. I decided to call it a day and I headed in for an early lunch.

As I came through the harbor I noticed the same bunker school pushed farther up into the harbor. There was one boat fishing and they had just boated a nice blue. I killed the engine and drifted into the bunker school. I dug out a snatch hook and grabbed my snagging rod. I flipped the snatch hook into the bunker school and promptly snagged a bunker and

Author with a teen-sized blue he caught inside a harbor on a frosty October morning.

almost had it in the boat when a monster blue cut the bunker neatly in half. I had actually watched that blue swim up and attack that bunker. It was really quite a sight. I dropped my half bunker into the boat and cast out again, snagging another bunker, this time I watched three blues rip apart my bunker four feet off my transom. You're probably thinking that I had a ball boating monster blues, but that is not the case.

I'll have to broaden the overall picture a little. I had a boat load of wire line equipment on board, two medium action spinning rods, one snatch hook and a few rusty 6/0 hooks that had been hanging around the console, three wire leaders, no live lining rigs and two rookies for a crew. I was totally unprepared for this type of fishing. I had to come up with a plan ASAP.

I rigged one spinning rod for chunk bait fishing using a piece of the first half bunker that made it to the boat. One of my rookie crew was an excellent freshwater fisherman, so I gave him the chunking rod. The plan was for me to snag another bunker and bring it slowly up to the boat. Hopefully by the time the bunker made it to the boat there would be some blues in plain sight behind it (just as before). When the blues came into view my partner was supposed to plop the chunk right in front of them. Well, my plan worked. The first blue we boated was in the high teens, which was followed by several fish in the low teens before the bite was over. I was happy my last minute idea worked, but I was still depressed since I would have had hours of wild fishing if I had worked a ltitle harder at the bunker schools on my way out in the morning. It was easier for me to head out to the jigging grounds that I got so accustomed to.

After I got home that day I dug out my livelining gear. The next morning I would be ready for some hot action. Fortunately the action was hot that morning because the temperature was downright frosty—28 degrees as I left the dock. I experienced some of the most enjoyable fishing I have ever known. I would cast out and snag a bunker, reel it in as fast as I could, pass it to my partner, who would hook it to a livelining rig. He would then let the bunker out about 10 feet from the boat. It was all visual fishing, you would watch the blues come up after the bunker, often several at a time. Once a blue grabbed the bunker you would let him run with it for about 30 feet before engaging the reel and hitting him. We used conventional boat rods and left the reels in free spool with the click on before we nailed the fish.

The fish were so aggressive I was even taking them on the snatch hook as I retrieved bunker. It was actually harder getting bunker into the boat than it was blues. We started fishing at about 6AM and quit at 10AM. You can only take so much of a good thing. After about 9AM you had to let out about 50 feet of line to get consistent action, the fishing was just as good but you didn't get to watch the fish take the bait. Every year now I have had some great fall action in harbor bunker schools. I have even had great fishing under very small bunker schools that could be easily passed by—it pays to keep your eyes open.

Before I end my story I am going to give you some tips on tackle and techniques. Tip number one is to be prepared for the unexpected, always carry a few livelining rigs, some snatch hooks and a spinning rod capable of snagging bunker. I like to put together a livelining package in a waterproof container and leave it in the boat at all times.

For the actual livelining you need a stout boat rod and a good reel spooled with fresh 30 to 40 pound test. Don't use spinning tackle for the actual livelining. If you do, you are going to lose a lot of terminal tackle and kill a lot of fish in the process. Snagging rods should be at least 7 feet long with a moderately stiff tip. If you have problems snagging bunker, I suggest you switch to an even longer rod. Longer rods aren't really suited to boat use, but they definitely help in the bunker snagging department. I may be boring the livelining pros at this point, but it really is amazing how many people have problems snagging bunker. Spinning reels should be spooled with 20 or even 25 pound test mono as the line takes a great deal of abuse from all the bunker fins it comes in contact with.

Unfortunately, lures will rarely ever work in bunker schools, the fish are keyed specifically into attacking bunker. Chunking will work but nowhere as well as whole live bunker. After a bait is snagged it has to be lightly hooked behind the head and in front of the tail; just pierce the skin of the bunker. Try not to wound the bunker too deeply. A properly rigged bunker can last for hours, but it hopefully won't. If you snag a bunker and it is severely wounded, do not even bother to liveline it unless the fish are extremely aggressive. Normally the blues will come right up and nail the bunker, but sometimes a little weight is needed if the fish have gone deep. Another thing that is important is to fish directly in the bunker schools, the blues are right underneath. You will get almost all of your hits when the boat is surrounded by bunkers. Obviously the boat must be shut down in order not to distrub the bait and blues.

As is the norm, early morning tends to be the best time for this type of fishing; the next best time, of course, is dusk. As the water gets cold, however, the fish will feed pretty much at any time. One final note, don't take more blues than you can use. It is very easy to fill the boat with blues when they go on a rampage. I like treble hooks on my livelining rigs but they can be made with single hooks which allows you to release some fish if so desired. Good luck and good fishing.

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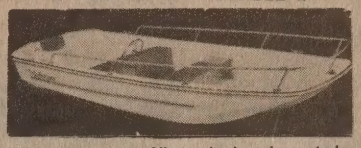

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OCTOBER EVENTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

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RAINBOW ALLEY

by Rich Giessuebel

Beginning late in October and lasting well on into April, steelhead can be caught in many Lake Ontario tributaries. When the rivers are running high during this period of time, you can also expect to find them in almost every creek, stream or river emptying into the big lake. So, with a map in hand, it's possible to find a stream or two that not too many other guys know about or fish.

For our purposes, I'm going to name the major steelhead alleys and I'll leave it up to you to be a good detective. What you should do is to try some of the major beats of water and then strike out on your own to find other less known streams.

Perhaps one of the most beautiful rivers in the entire world is the Niagara River. Best known for its famous falls, the Niagara River produces excellent runs of steelhead from below the falls all the way out to the lake or a distance of about six miles. Characterized by steep, rocky cliffs, the river travels through a gorge before becoming a wide river of several hundred yards.

Steelhead can be caught off bank or from a boat, but there are certain precautions anglers should take before fishing the river. Be aware that the Niagara is used to produce electricity. Therefore, the river's level will change from time to time. During periods of low water, anglers can get stranded out from the bank should the river rise. To avoid this possibility, be alert for changes in the river's flow. Be ready to move to safe ground the first moment you recognize that the river's going up!

Also, if you're in a boat, stay clear of the turbines at the power plants. Currents at their base will be swift and unless you're in a seaworthy craft, you can have trouble. Fish nothing less than 40 horsepower in this area. And again, maintain a cautious and conscientious attitude at all times. No fish is worth losing life or limb over!

The reward is a fine 8 pound steelhead trout.

Bank casters prefer bait and medium action spinning rods up to 9 feet. Spawn sacs make good bait, but don't forget worms or single salmon eggs. These fish are here to feed and spawn, but spawning doesn't take place until the spring. So, I always imagine that they are there early for one of two reasons. Number one, because they know they can get high protein feed given off by the salmon and number two, because heredity indicates that if they are in the river early, they won't be blocked off from the spawning grounds when the right time arrives.

As for trollers, small fast moving spoons and plugs work well. Miniature Hot Shots and 1/4 ounce Cleos usually turn the trick. Hot colors include chartreuse and hot orange for the Hot Shots and all silver or silver/blue combos for the Cleos. Also remember that there's a swift current in the river. So, make certain that at the speed you troll, your lures are working properly. You can also consider drifting bait or back trolling Hot Shots. You back troll by heading into the current at a slow enough speed that your boat will actually drift backwards. You play out your lures 25 to 50 feet behind the boat and once they get caught in the current, they will begin to work.

The next river you should check out is the Oswego River. Not a long river, the Oswego gets a tremendous concentration of steelhead in a very short but fishable river. What you have here is another river with water level fluctuations. The level is altered

(Continued on next page.)

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by the powerhouse and locks systems which often release water causing the river to rise. To anyone not familiar with the river, the rising can be a very frightening experience. For one thing, the current becomes dangerous and for another, where you could once see the bottom and plan every step, now the bottom disappears and if you don't know where you're going, each step becomes a tedious adventure. Because of this happening, I highly recommend that you carry a wading staff with you.

The safest location from which to fish is found furthest upstream against the dam. At this location, the powerhouse will be located about 200 yards downstream of you and between the two, there aren't many places that will give you wading difficulties.

At the mouth of the river, steelhead can be taken from boats or land casters alike. Some enterprising young bank fishermen run out individual side planers like the Luhr Jensen pink side cars. They run a lure behind the planer and head them off into the river. It's just like being in a boat and any fish passing has the opportunity to jump on.

Good lures in this river include the little Cleo, the Phoebe, the Hot Shot, Wee Warts, and Hot 'N Tots. The best approach is to cast them across stream and allow them to settle back downstream. Steelhead when interested will follow the lure and strike it once it has straightened out below. Then, hang on!

As for bait, early in the run, there are tons of salmon and salmon eggs in the river. So "individual" salmon eggs fished on size #6 or #8 hooks are preferred. Granted, these are big hooks for individual eggs, but you can position the egg so that it is highly visible and enticing to a finning steelhead. By the way, I've opened many steelhead over the years and it appears that they are loaded with individual eggs, rather than clusters. Try fishing for the steelhead beneath the dam in any shoot of water and try fishing for them in the exact same way as you'd fish for trout using a single salmon egg.

The last river you should become familiar with also is regulated by water release. This river is the Salmon River which runs through the Village of Pulaski in upstate New York. (The reason why writers always say this is because there are two Salmon Rivers in New York State which both empty into Lake Ontario.) Perhaps the best river to fish for steelhead, the Salmon offers pool after pool and glide after glide. There's plenty of room and wading or drift-boating can be accomplished. If you wade, you can fish on your own or with a guide. However, if you drift-boat, you will need the services of a good captain.

You can wade all through the winter all along the river. Usually, water's being released from the Salmon River Reservoir and regardless of how cold it is outside, the released water's temperature is above freezing. Rod guides may freeze up and you're certain to become cold, but if you want quality steelheading, the Salmon River's for you.

Most waders use 8½ to 9 foot spinning rods, but fly rods and noodle sticks are highly evident. Perhaps the best time you can fish on this river is when the river goes up. That is, should the river be low and cold, the moment the water released from the reservoir reaches where you are fishing, the temperature of the water will rise several degrees. This change in temperature causes the steelhead to turn on and feed. Anglers always report increased steelhead activity associated with the arrival of warm water.

Consider this if you will. Imagine being 50 degrees outside and you being in short sleeves and not having a coat. You'd be very chilly and uncomfortable. I doubt very much if you'd be hungry or would enjoy eating under such conditions. But, if you moved into a warm house, I also bet your appetite would suddenly be found and that if you were offered something to eat, you'd have a hard time refusing. The same holds true for the steelhead. Warm them up a few degrees and to a cold-blooded creature, it's the signal to eat.

Along the same vein, try to find pools where the direct sunshine strikes the water. These pools will warm up quicker than the rest of the stream. The bottom of the stream will get warmer and so will the steelhead swimming in the stream. You will have a better chance of getting fish in a warm pool to bite than in a shady, cold pool.

Next point to remember is to keep your bait deep in the river and to not overlook good holding locations like directly alongside rocks or boulders. Steelhead are notorious for swimming or finning in such locations. The majority of the steelhead I had caught over the years have come from near the heads of or tails of pools directly alongside a boulder or rock. These are the places I first try to fish. If I'm not successful, then I move into the main body of the pool.

For the best chances of getting a steelhead to bite, use bait first, but don't be afraid to try lures. When using bait, be aware that the Salmon River has its own set of fishing regulations. You must adhere to a specific bait fishing rig. The leader must be not less than 24 inches in length; it must be set off by a snap swivel, swivel, or ring; and if you're going to use weight, the weight must be above the swivel or ring.

For lures there are specific regulations, too. Spinning lures can only have a single hook (not a treble) and floating lures can only have a single treble hook. The Luhr Jensen Hot Shot fits this bill and is used by many anglers fishing the river. Also, Heddon's Tadpole makes a good lure, but there are two sets of trebles on it.

What you can do to make it legal is to remove one of the trebles. I have been removing the middle treble, but a good friend of mine suggests removing the tail treble and adding a barrel swivel between the middle swivel and the lure. He feels you have better balance and that the lure is more effective. I'm certainly going to give it a try this year.

Another good thing to remember is color. Steelhead in my estimation like bright colors. Therefore, I fish hot orange and chartreuse Tadpoles and white, silver and red Hot Shots. As for bait, I like the red veiling material, but have had success on others. Another good trick to remember while using spawn sacs is to bring along an old salmon egg jar. Keep your sacs in this oil, or refresh the scent of an old sac with this oil. Steelhead can be fussy and every trick counts. Remember, there are those of you out there who have tried for years to catch a steelhead without success. Don't let something as simple as scent hold you back!

Now, if you have noticed, this has been a pretty general article. The reason for this is because even though fish move into a river, they move around a lot. Today they're in one pool; tomorrow in another. It's best if once you arrive at any of these rivers you go to the nearest tackle shop and ask where the steelhead are cooperating. Generally, the guys behind the counter will give you enough information to get started. Then talk to other steelheaders. See where they are going and find out how well they have been doing.

One thing's certain, steelheading isn't easy. Two or three good strikes and one or two fish on with none in the net might be some guy's idea of a good time. Believe me, it doesn't take much more for me to be happy. Some days we have spent over 10 hours without a bite or without even seeing five fish caught. So don't let anyone kid you. Besides showing up in the middle of the winter, you've got to have some idea about what you are doing.

If you don't, then let me recommend a drift-boat trip down the river. Here you don't have to know anything. The captain does all the work and you hold the fishing rod. When the fish strikes, you slam the hooks into him. The difference here is that by the end of the trip, you will probably have some steelhead. The main reason for this is because you will pass through all the good pools between the Altmar Bridge and the Compactor Pool Bridge. The drift takes as long as eight hours, especially if you stop to eat or cast into a good pool.

Well, that about covers the options and the better rivers running into the big lake. Don't be afraid to get out there and give it a try. Big rainbow trout are beautiful. The winter scene in this region can also be marvelous. So, if you get the opportunity, see what you can do. Good fishing!

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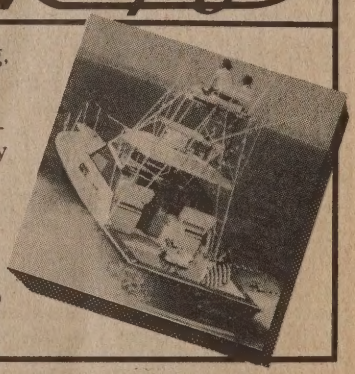

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VERSATILE TINS

by Carl Buxbaum

The quiet sea was like an unbroken sheet of slate under a hazy, overcast sky that mild and windless morning. There were no signs of fish, but I enjoyed walking along the beach and casting a small popping plug every 50 yards or so. I like the way poppers disturb the peace on smooth water and am confident that they attract distant predators because no other commotion disguises or masks their activity. Once, I saw a swirl appear behind the plug, but it may only have been wishful thinking. The sea was as dead as it looked.

When I reached the jetty at the western edge of Jones Beach, the still water invited a relatively safe trip out to the far end. Soon the tide would spill down through the inlet like a river, and that might put some life in the day. But I hadn't brought my creepers or long gaff and didn't feel like negotiating a course over the slippery rocks that required weaving through a cadre of bucket-toting, casual fishermen that was unsuccessfully dipping crab meat for blackfish. North, past the radio shack, in the inlet beyond the rocks, the long rods of surfcasters seemed stuck in the dark sky. I trekked toward the rods, waders feeling as if they lagged a step behind, hoping to find some conversation; catching fish was written off.

Most of the rods stood in sand spikes, and the casters were talking up a storm in the moist Indian Summer air, not bothering to keep an eye on the rods; only crabs would be nibbling at their bunker and mackerel chunks, anyway.

Then a pair of anglers stepped into the water, about knee deep and cast in unison—just to get the blood circulating, I guessed—and in about a single second both were fighting fish. I cast my popper; others checked terminal gear and repositioned their baits; nobody caught anything—except those first two fellows. They already had 3 medium sized bluefish each, as a result of slinging tins and dragging them back on bottom, slowly over a sand bar.

Shortly, about a dozen casters were working shiny metal lures over the same 10 foot strip of sand bar. Still, only the pair gifted with the Midas touch even had a bump. Fearing for their lives, the gifted ones volunteered to all, "J8s, they're hitting J8s." Another angler had one, made the changeover and started taking blues. I eventually managed a fish on a Hopkins and a few other casters nailed isolated blues on other tins, but only J8s were reliably taking any numbers.

Now it's real strange for bluefish to get quite so picky. Everybody knows that shiny metals are a good bet when all else fails; that's why they have persisted for daylight action ever since the first surfcaster hurled a "tin squid" seaward when the sport was born—but why only one particular, yet ordinary, tin on that morning? Isn't it enough to simply put some flash in the suds? Sometimes yes and sometimes no.

We've grown so used to relying on the excellent, mass produced, readily available metals, say the Hopkins, Kastmaster or Krocodile, we've forgotten that versatility and variety is the key to the effectiveness of metals. You can work them quickly, moderately, slowly, or unevenly; you can run them on top, shallow, at mid-depths, or on the bottom; and you can even approximate the size and shape of many baitfish to "match the hatch," if that's what it takes. Probably, the most important thing to do is match the hatch and match the feeding situation at the same time. That requires careful observation of the marine situation, knowledge of the characteristics of various metal lures, and a clear understanding of the habits attributable to your quarry.

When small prey fish and ferocious predators are tearing up the surfrace, for example, the most effective lure choice is probably one of the copies of original tin squids now produced by the Diamond Feather Company—such as the J2 or J15. Still made of block tin, they are light enough to stay on or near the surface, and this posture is enhanced by their keel-shaped design. Their slender profiles often have a closer resemblance to the prevailing prey than the best matched popper. Therefore, catches can be increased by skipping them on the surface, very much like popping plugs, on fast retrieves. And because they ride so high, the strikes and cavorting

topwater battles are every bit as exciting as those elicited by poppers. Next time game fish show no interest in surface plugs, even though you see them breaking, try skipping a skinny tin.

They can also pay off when fish want a slow retrieve, below the surface, along shallow and rocky shores, because real tin usually holds above the bottom and won't hang up in rocks or weeds as often as the heavier metals that must be cranked at a fair clip to ride above snags. When the bait is bulkier, anglers might resort to some of the broader, keeled block tins. These stay on top, even when you don't race them.

For sub-surface action and at mid-depths, Kastmasters, Hopkins, Krocodiles, and heavier J8 type metals usually seem best—especially when a moderate rate of retrieve is the ticket. With a predominant prey of sand eels and similarly skinny species, I've found the slim, Hopkins No-Eql (particularly the 2 ounce and smaller sizes) and the 2 ounce J8 to be superior mid-depth offerings. When fish are blitzing and almost anything goes, though, the vigorous swimming action of Kastmasters, Krocodiles and Hopkins Shorties may well attract more frequent assaults.

Light tins, or metals with plenty of action, though, tend to get tossed around so much in the heavy seas of a high surf that it is nearly impossible to work them deep or on the bottom. Anglers who wait for them to sink find them washed back toward shore before the retrieve has gained control of slack line. If not, they are often lifted away from the bottom and swept laterally, down current. A 3 ounce J8 has a fair chance of getting down, but 3 ounce versions of fluttering, active metals—though they cast marvelously well—are so vulnerable to strong currents that they rise toward the surface in rough seas.

How important is it to get to the bottom? Not very, for casters satisfied by a few ordinary bluefish during blitzes. But if you'd like to tie into some monster choppers and nail a daylight striper or weakfish here and there, getting to the bottom is crucial.

First, even during feeding frenzies, the biggest predators tend to be lazy. While modest fish are ripping up bait at the surface, the lazy brutes lay near bottom picking away at injured, vulnerable prey. They let the young waste energy in hot pursuit, while they effortlessly gorge themselves. This is especially true regarding fat stripers and weaks, because they are less aggressive than blues—though they, too can feed like mad. Casters hoping to improve the quality of their catches, instead of just shooting for numbers, should select heavy, rapidly sinking metals that can get down to the bottom before getting snatched by just another ordinary blue.

Second, in the absence of a feeding binge, game fish tend to root around bottom in search of meals. The sea floor is the prime habitat for sand eels, marine worms, crabs and other less distinguished bait species. And that's where smart old gamesters look for food when their appetites are not conveniently obliged by confused schools of prey fish.

Selection of proven metals, from left to right: feathered J15, feathered J8, bucktailed Kastmaster, bucktalled Hopkins Shorty, bucktailed Hopkins No-Eql, tubed Tri-Fin Spoon, tubed A17 and tubed A27.

Yes, J8 type metals of 3 or more ounces will get down there, but the fastest sinkers—because of their water slicing shapes—remain the basic, old-fashioned, diamond jigs and the increasingly popular Ava series, especially the A27. In addition to dropping quickly in a turbulent surf, these metals look at home on the ocean floor, because they so closely resemble sand eels. The resemblance is enhanced by using lures that have a single hook sporting a surgical tube, rather than the feather or bucktail trailers with which metals have been most commonly dressed. In fact, it may be the tube alone that game fish want to eat, with the metal serving primarily as a weight and attractor.

While it clearly pays to try different retrieval styles with metals in general—including fast, moderate, slow, stop-and-go, and so on—two basic approaches seem most reliable for bottom fishing. The first is to let the lure sink and crawl it back smoothly, while the tube tail flops around and the jig itself carves a groove in the sand. The second is to interrupt the crawl by abruptly lifting the rod tip and then allowing the offering to fall back into the sand, every 3 or 4 cranks. The latter method has paid high dividends for me by producing some of my huskiest choppers, more daylight weaks than any other approach and culling many respectable stripers out of hordes of marauding blues. I suspect that the puff of sand kicked up on the lift draws attention and that the fall emulates the realistic escape behavior of sand eels, which is to burrow down on the ocean floor and hide.

Yet this is tricky fishing. Anglers must be ever alert and set the hook at the slightest sign of line hesitation, unexpected slack, or lateral movement, because a metal on the bottom very rarely brings a jolting strike. Instead, fish seem to simply inhale the lure as it creeps along and especially like catching it on the fly, as it drops after a lift. So when in doubt, take up slack and strike hard—as fast as you can. The soft feel of surgical tubing may fool fish into holding on for a second or two, but once they feel hard metal, the lure is spit out.

There's been considerable debate among surfcasters regarding the relative merits of tube, bucktail and feather hook dressings during the past few seasons; and arguments over the best color for tubing have probably been more heated. The fact is that the best dressing seems to vary almost daily. In my experience at least, trailers don't matter much during surface or mid-depth blitzes. Bucktails and feathers seem best then, but I still take fish after the hook's been stripped clean by the repeated assaults of bluefish. If it seems as if the trailer had done better, I slip on a piece of white tubing; tubes can take quite a bit of chewing before losing a grip on a hook. If action falls off, try stimulating appetites with a red or green tube—sometimes color does make a significant difference, however random that may be.

Tubes really come into their own and have a tremendous edge over both feathers and hair, when the quarry is deep or hovering right on the bottom. And I've had the luck of the Irish with bright green.

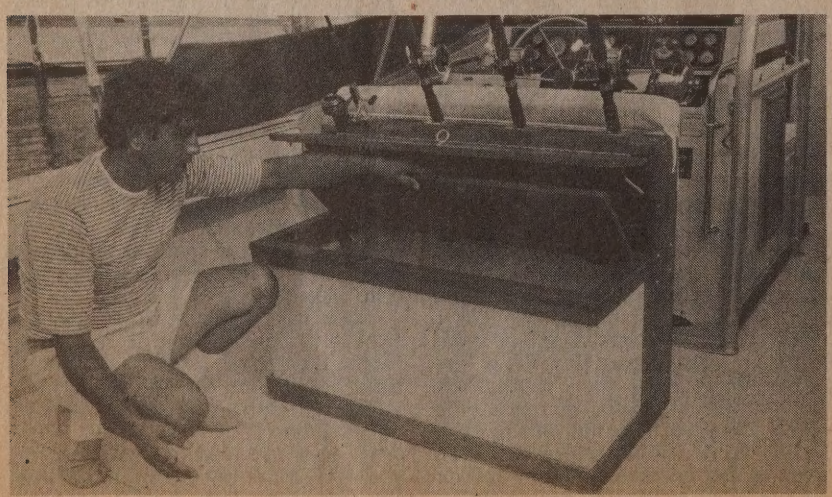
So when all else fails, try putting some flash in the suds. And never throw in the towel before dredging bottom with heavy metal and green tubes.

THE IDEAL BOAT

by Pete Barrett

Innovative design, fast cruising speed and stable ride combine to make this Whaler 27 a versatile fishing machine.

Tony DeAlmeida fishes for everything from inshore blues and fluke to offshore canyon tuna, but he particularly likes mako shark fishing and his Whaler 27 reflects his strategy in seeking his favorite game fish. In the last ten years the sharking grounds have become crowded and congested. The angler who "gets there firstest with the mostest" may be the tournament winner and Tony's boat was selected with an eye towards fast speed and sea keeping qualities.



Tackle center is a combination helm seat, rocket launcher, storage box and rigging station was custom built by owner, Tony DeAlmeida.

With a pair of OMC 2.6 liter Sea Drives this Whaler can hit speeds of 40 plus knots on calm days and still run in the high 20 knot ranges on rough days. Tony says, "In a head sea the deep vee really cuts through the bad water nicely, but I run at about 16 to 19 knots so everyone on board is comfortable. In moderate seas I have no problem cruising at 3800 RPMs and maintaining speeds in the high 20 to low 30 knot range."

Tony has handled worse than 6 foot seas with no problems and feels the 65 degree entry and 18 degree deadrise at the transom provides the ideal mix of hull tapers. "Since I do a lot of shark fishing it was very important that the boat be stable while drifting and this boat is definitely very stable."

With a fuel capacity of 310 gallons the boat is canyon capable. Fuel consumption is approximately 23 gallons per hour at mid-range cruise, 30 gallons at high speed cruise. Tony can

get to the shark grounds in around an hour's time depending on how far he travels. On a typical canyon trip with combined trolling and running the boat burns about 19 gallons per hour average.

With a background in engineering, Tony spent a lot of time looking for a boat that was not only built very well but was also innovative. "I appreciate the attention to small details that Whaler pays to all aspects of construction. The hull is vibration free and rigid due to their unique foam filled hull construction and everywhere you look on the boat—the gel coat, seams, teak work and fit of parts—it's the best you'll find on a production boat."

Tony spent a lot of thought on the tackle locker he built himself. It is a combination storage box, rocket launcher, rigging station and helm seat. He built it himself using glass over wood techniques like custom boats do and finished it off with finely done teak trim. It adds a tremendous amount of fishability to the boat and keeps all the rods, tackle and gear at close hand.

For electronics he chose to rely heavily on Si-Tex and Lowrance. There are two Lorans, a Si-Tex 797 as a back-up and a commercial grade Sea-Tex 760 as the primary Loran. A T200 radar helps cut the fog and dark of night while a 705 color scope marks fish. Other electronics include an ICOM M55, Lowrance X16 recorder and Lowrance temperature and digital depth gauges flush mounted into the console.

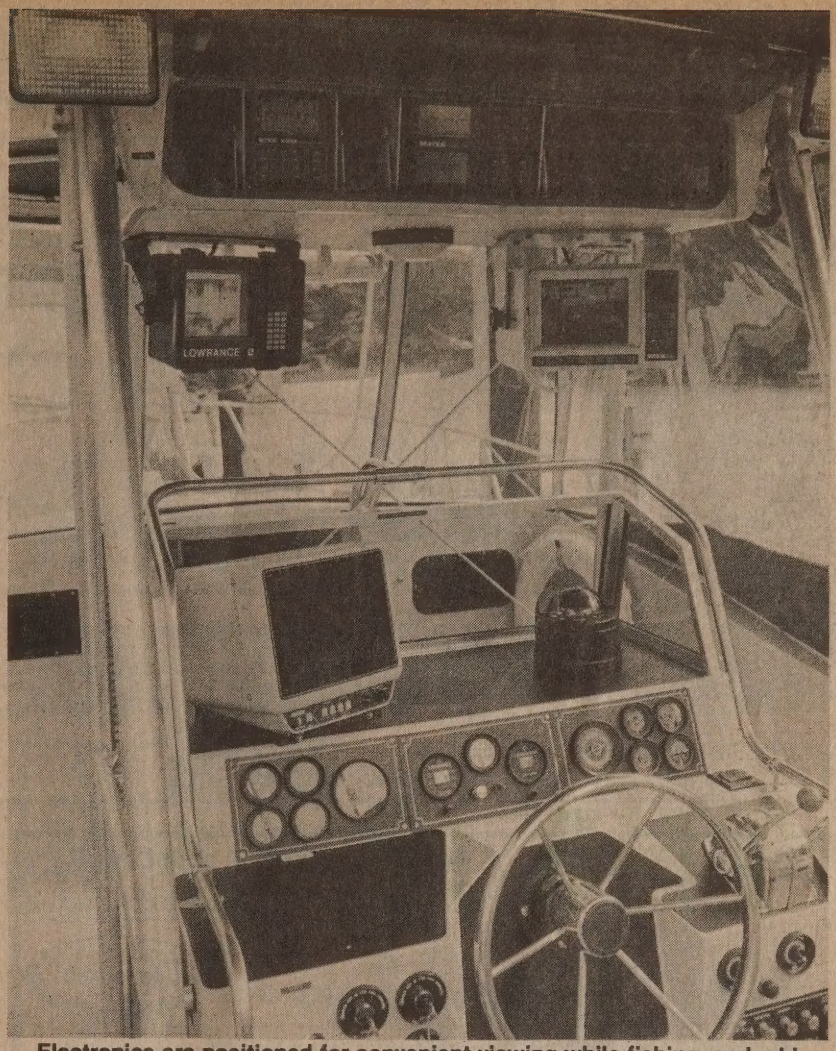
The T-Top is a factory option offered by Whaler but constructed by Pipewelders. Fitted with an electronics box, the Lorans and radio fit nicely under the T-Top, the graph recorder and radar are suspended below the box for easy viewing without losing any visibility while running the boat.

The T-Top keeps antennas totally out of the way and helps keep everyone dry on rainy days. For really nasty days Tony had a complete wrap-around plastic enclosure built. There is no sacrifice of walkaround room and the added dryness of a cabin boat is a pleasure on sloppy days.

The cuddy cabin offers handy tackle storage, sleeping quarters and for the marine head. Ten rods can be stored in the cabin, while an additional 12 more can be stored topside under the gun'ls and in the rocket launcher. A Savvy fight chair fits behind the tackle center and does not compromise the cockpit space.

The transom shows why Tony likes the Whaler attention to details. There's a built-in fish box and bait prep boxes at each side of the stern. Access to controls, cables, batteries and wiring are all covered by the nicely done transom moldings yet everything can be accessed easily for installation, repairs and maintenance.

Tony is well pleased with his Whaler 27. For him it combines the right mixture of quality, speed and fishability to make this his "Ideal Boat."



Electronics are positioned for convenient viewing while fishing, and add to the boat's fishing abilities.

Fish box and transom bait prep boxes are a nice touch. Twin OMC Sea Drives provide lots of get up and go.

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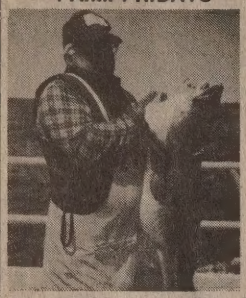

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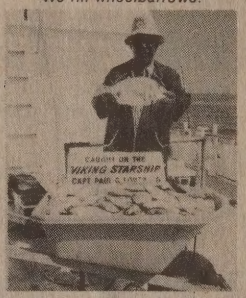

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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Tuna seemd to have moved well offshore, with Canyon runners returning with very good catches of yellowfin and bigeye, the only reports of giant tuna coming from Cape Cod. Many anglers switched to inshore fishing, both because of the slowdown of tuna and persistent bad weather and sea conditions. Inshore, the East End is loaded with bluefish and plenty of bass, with several impressive trophy bass caught last week. When wind conditions allowed, many doormat fluke were located on Montauk's south side. Porgies remain plentiful and blackfish have come into the picture.

MONTAUK

The **Montauk Marine Basin's** 9th Annual Full Moon Striped Bass Tournament will be held this year on Friday, October 9th, starting at Noon and will end on Sunday, October 12th at 6PM. All anglers must register before fishing. Entry fee is $15. First prize will receive a mount by Fish Unlimited. Second, third and fourth cash prizes of $300, $200 and $100 will be awarded. Call Carl Darenberg, Jr. for further information at (516) 668-5900.

A couple of makos were brought back to the **Montauk Marine Basin** on Sunday, one on the "Teamwork," the other approximately 200 lbs. was caught on "Hustler." A couple of large bigeye tuna were located on the "Marlin" while fishing the Canyon. Plenty of nice size fluke were admired at the docks on Sunday. A very large group from the Westhampton Beach Fire Department that chartered six boats, loaded up with plenty of bluefish and some bass.

Bob, speaking for **Star Island Yacht Club**, told of a variety of species seen during the week. The "Salimar" returned from a Wednesday canyon trip with a 140 lb. bigeye, 25 dolphin and 8 albacore weighing from 30 to 50 lbs. Captain Tom Miller and Bill Mirbach caught 15 cod, fishing east of Block Island. Largest cod weighed 26 and 31 lbs. An 8½ lb. fluke was landed on "Hawks Nest." Fifteen cod to 25 lbs. were caught on the charter boat **Lori Jay.**

Henry Uihlein spoke of very good action on bluefish, porgies, some bonito on boats from **Uihlein's Boat Rentals** during the week. While there was a slowdown on fluke catches by his customers, some did return wtih striped bass. Excellent flounder fish-

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Dr. Warren Kent with one of nine yellowfins from 125 to 150 lbs. taken during a recent trip aboard the Montauk based charter boat, "Adios."

ing has started in the Lake. Charlie Fox managed 14 flounder to 1½ lbs. on a trip Sunday. Fall hours are 8 to 4 daily. Call ahead to reserve a boat.

Porgy action was pretty good all week on the **Little Bear** according to Capt. Fred Bird even when the wind and bluefish moved in on Friday. Rich Dovner and his wife fished both Saturday and Sunday, accumulating 250 porgies in their two day fishing spree.

Captain Dusty Dorzbacher also enjoyed good porgy action, with mostly large porgies moving into the area. Phil Westbrook fished the whole weekend on the **Little Bear**, returning to Brooklyn with 185 porgies on his three day fishing spree.

The **Lazybones** has now switched to blues and bass on its half day trips, intercepting a load of bass on Tuesday, with the largest weighing 51 lbs. taken by Peter Kraus and a couple in the 30 lb. range, all caught on diamond jigs.

Tons of blues, lots of bass, good fluking inshore said Joan Smith at **Captain's Cove Marina**. Last Wednesday, Tony De Vito weighed a 12 lb. fluke, the largest of his catch on "Grumpy." On Tuesday, 7 bass, all weighing about 28 lbs. were caught on "Marie III." Captain Steve Mauss loaded up with blackfish on his charters on **Kraken III**. Offshore action with tuna has slowed considerably, however, sharks have picked up the slack. Some charter boats have open dates for bass fishing. Call the marina for available boats.

We received a call from Jimmy Williams of Patchogue, who has, so far, made four trips to Nomans Land for porgies on the **Viking Starship** and was on his way east for a repeat. Mr. Williams has been returning with at least 75 porgies, averaging 1½ lbs., remarking that he has witnessed

catches made by others that range anywhere from 30 for a first timer, to coolers full by experts. John Girolamo bagged 53 on Friday's trip, and topped off his catch with an 8 lb. blackfish. On Sunday's trip, several anglers had filled three 5-gallon pails, with large and jumbo porgies. About 100 blackfish from 1 to 10 lbs. have been caught every trip as well.

Please note that the **Starlight** is now fishing half day for blues and bass with plenty of action on diamond jigs near the point. Night bluefish trips have been outstanding, with anglers quitting early because of hot action with very large blues that are now averaging 12 lbs. and up. Pool fish Thursday night was 20 lbs. Canyon tuna trips are very good, Sunday's catch included bigeye and yellowfin tuna. Call for reservations on Georges Banks cod trips scheduled for October 2nd, 12th and 16th.

Captain Michael Potts enjoyed great bass catches on the charter boat **Bluefin IV** during the week after last week's storm. Monday's trip with Captain Rob Aaronson and a charter arranged by **Tuma's Charter Service**, saw about 90 bass come aboard with over a dozen legal size fish released after the group caught their limit of eight. Keepers ranged from 20 lbs. up with a 35 and 40 lber. among the catch, the largest fish caught on bucktails. On Tuesday, the Piasios of Old Brookville jigged and bucktailed a tremendous amount of bass in super action, with trophy bass of 36, 40, 45 and 46 lbs. in the catch. Wednesday's charter with Jim Hunt and his friends was a 43 lber. plus two in the 20 lb. range. On Thursday the Hummer group's largest bass were 43 and 46 lbs. On the weekend, smaller bass moved in, with many bluefish and could be caught using any method. On Saturday's trip with the Flores group, 20 small bass were caught

Dick Rosenberg caught this 8.2 lb. doormat fluke on the south side of Montauk while aboard the open boat, "Wilhelric II."

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casting lures, three meeting legal size requirements. A pleasant addition of two weakfish were among the bass, blues and bonito on the weekend.

Most charter boats fished inshore all week. Capt. Fritz Hubner of **Mistress Too** related that 50 or more bass have been caught daily with an average of 2 to 6 keepers per trip, most bass in the 18 to 28 pound range. Nice fluke are still biting on the south side. On Sunday a 12½ pound doormat was caught on the incoming tide.

Capt Steve Mauss discovered that blackfish are quite willing to jump on green crabs. Saturday's charter on the **Krake III** with Joe and Irene Couzzi and Tom Argo counted 60 blackfish, top weight 8½ pounds, while on Sunday, Eric Rienfeld and his friend Al bagged 40 blacks to 8 pounds, a load of sea bass, some 4 pounds with porgie and bluefish, fishing local Montauk waters.

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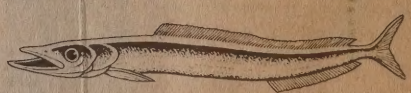

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and green water offshore, Capt. Mike Albronda fished near the Point on the weekend on the charter boat **Montauk**, enjoying fantastic fishing. Catches include a variety of fish, including striped bass, bluefish, porgies, sea bass, flounder (to 2 pounds), fluke, triggerfish (to 5 pounds), green bonito and false albacore. Many bass over 33 inches have come into the area, and are willing to be caught on diamond jigs, bait, bucktails or trolled tubes.

Capt. Bill Ricca kept the **Alyssa Ann** inshore because of bad offshore weather conditions, and reported fabulous fishing with fluke, blues, bass, etc. Charter groups arranged by Mike Quis, Bob Harvey, John Wilkeyson and Gary Hoffman loaded up with fish on both bait and casting with light tackle.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** stated that bass action is the best in years, with the fish cooperating well on diamond jigs. Most days charter groups have caught their limit of bass, including a 35 pounder on Tuesday, and a 48 pound trophy on Friday. Three weakfish, top weight 13 pounds were added to Sunday's catch.

Charter groups on the **Julie III** returned with ten varieties of fish, ranging from bass to trigger fish. On Thursday, Harold Kimbell met up with a load of blues, 489 porgies, some sea bass and striped bass at the Point and south side. Friday's group, arranged by John Viscotti located 210 porgies and a dozen sea bass along with many blues. Besides blues and porgies, Pete "the Coffeeman" hooked into a 3½ pound flounder plus a 7 pound Southern Blue Runner. Tyrone Lewis managed 128 porgies, taking high hook honors on Sunday's trip which returned with a load of porgies and 73 sea bass.

Captain Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reported some excellent bass action on jigs, trolling and casting. All of the usual bass spots are producing fish with some keepers in each location. Om Monday the Arthur Hoffman group totaled over 40 bass. Thursday saw similar results. A reminder that Captain Phil will be running combo trips for stripers and blackfish through the month of October. He still has some choice dates available. For more info, see his ad.

SOUTH FORK

Loads of blues are feeding in Plum Gut according to George Pharoh of **Bayview Marine and Tackle**. He and a friend caught 80 blues, which averaged 5 pounds, although the largest was 15 pounds on Tuesday. A half dozen stripers were tagged and released. Closer to home, blues were caught by anglers fishing the west side of South Ferry on the weekend. Plenty of very large snappers can be caught in the Sag Harbor area; some fluke were caught off Gardiner's Island. Bayview

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will open at 7AM on weekends, and 8AM on weekdays, but will close on Mondays through the fall. Since a few blackfish have been caught recently, green crabs are now in stock at the tackle shop.

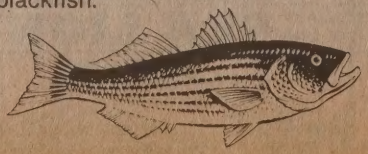
Capt. Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** will begin fishing for blackfish beginning October 1st on a Wednesday through Sunday schedule. Clams will be on board for those wishing to fish for porgies, which are on the blackfish spots. Mondays will be devoted to jigging blues and bass. Capt. Davey Green loaded up with blues plus a couple of bass on last Monday's jigging trip. Special full moon night bass trips have been scheduled and will sail at 7PM October 2 thru 7. Reservations are necessary. Capt. Lach reported plenty of fluke on last Wednesday's special Montauk fluke trip. In bad drifting conditions (wind against tide), over 100 fluke were caught, with five weighing over 8 pounds. Mary Clyne not only caught the biggest fluke of her life, but also copped the pool. In addition to fluke, customers were kept busy with porgies, blues and bonito.

Thom Speckenbach spoke of great surf and boat action with blues and bass on Friday and Saturday with fish going crazy in the bay, inlet and ocean. Customers at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** spoke of plenty of blackfish at the Shinnecock jetties; very large aggressive snappers in Scallop Pond in Bullhead Bay; a possible beginning of a fall flounder run at Heady Creek and west of the Ponquogue Bridge. No reports of fluke from the Shinnecock area.

Blue sharks were caught and released on weekend trips by anglers from **Sherry and Joe Corr's Best Boatworks**. Myron Levine and his friend Mike reported two sharks; as did Larry Laveglia, fishing on "Bad Influence". Other marina customers reported billions of blues in Shinnecock Bay, the inlet, and ocean, returning with all they wanted.

Anglers from **Mariner's Cove Marina** also cashed in on the bluefish frenzy, reporting that the fish jumped on any kind of bait and lure, insisting on getting caught. Last week, however, Philip Lent and his twelve year old son Christopher managed to outwit the blues. The pair put two 36 inch stripers into the fish box of their family boat "Unlisted Number."

A chat with Mickey Altenkirch revealed that tuna were quite scarce locally since last week's northeast blow. However, some area boats treked to Cape Cod when a big school of giant tuna were discovered. Locally, customers at **Altenkirch & Son** spoke of all the blues one could handle during the weekend. Plenty of blackfish were caught on crabs in the inlet and off the old Ponquogue Bridge. Some flounder were active west of the Bridge. Anglers fishing the Bridge Wreck returned with sea bass and blackfish.



South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Despite Indian Summer-like weather, the fishing picture is rapidly taking on an autumn look. Blackfishing is solid in the bays, though many boatmen found tough picking on Kismet Reef over the weekend after very good weekday action. Bluefishing is a fine shape outside the inlets with albacore and bonito mixed with the choppers. Tuna are on the offshore wrecks and also at the canyons. Flounder just getting started with some decent catches beginning to filter in. Small porgies and sea bass mixed with the flatties in both bays. Big weakfish and some cow bass being livelined in Fire Island Inlet and lots of school bass inside Moriches Inlet.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Over at **L&M Marine Fishing Station in East Moriches**, Phil Sepulveda said that a few flounder are beginning to show, but most sinker bouncers are still concentrating on blackfish at the inlet or getting in thei last licks on fluke. Some surprisingly good fluking this week at buoy 29 with 3 out of 4 fish over the 14 inch minimum. On Sunday, George Grape and friends from Manhasset Dodge put away two dozen keepers at buoy 29 on squid and spearing. Phil noted that anglers intent on fluking should plan on bringing their own fluke bait because Phil's sources have dried up. He added that lots of bass continue to be taken at the inlet.

Captain Tony Rizzo of the **Moriches base** charter boat **Nino** reported some excellent inshore action under way with plenty of school bass, albacore and large blues being taken at the inlet on trolled umbrellas rigs and by casting plugs. On Saturday, 23 bass were caught and released with one 35 lber. kept. In addition, the party put away plenty of blues and albacore. Sunday was spent offshore at the Virginia. One big tuna was dropped but Don Herbezettle did manage to hang on to a 120 lb. bluefin.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Dennis Scagnimillo of **J&J Tackle in Patchogue** said that crabbing continues very good at the local docks but snappers are about finished. Some

small weakfish continue to be taken on squid and sandworms opposite the West Sayville golf course in 10 feet of water. A mix of blacks, sea bass and small porgies on Kismet Reef and at the RM bridge. The Smith Point bridge has seen a showing of small flounder with small porgies mixed in also. Moriches Inlet has lots of 5 to 15 lb. stripers being taken on wire line and bucktails. Outside at the C buoy plenty of bluefish being jigged. On Sunday, Mike Rosetti, Larry DelRossi and Roy Wolfson jigged 30 blues to 12 lbs. at the C buoy.

From **J&R Sport Center in Oakdale**, Dave Canale knew that shore anglers were taking some porgies near the OBI at Oak Beach. Several boatmen reported token flounder catches at the Sore Thumb Pocket. Blackfishing was very good at Kismet Reef during the week but was slow for most on the weekend. Still a few big snappers around, but crabbing is a better bet. One customer returned from West Sayville dock on Thursday with 26.

Speaking from **Islander Bait and Tackle in East Islip**, John Albanese said that several customers reported doing well with blackfish from shore near the old construction dock at Robert Moses. Some flounder being taken in the Sore Thumb Pocket and in the state channel. Blackfishing on the reef at Kismet was slow on Sunday and you needed a shoehorn to find a spot to anchor. A few big snappers still around but they're fading and no word on crabs this week.

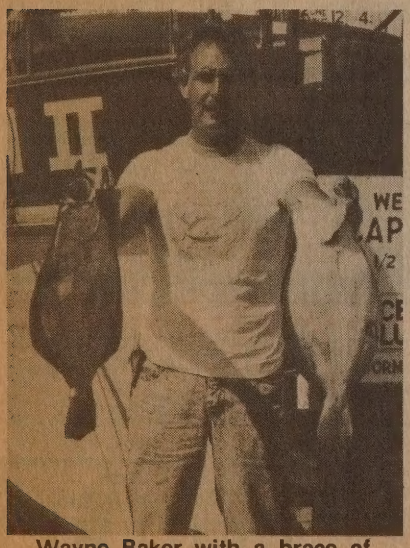
Jim Romano at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** knew of some good fluke fishing during the week with Bob Brossau taking 8 keepers on Friday at the Bell buoy. He used squid strips. Good blackfishing during the week at Kismet Reef and the RM bridge with quite a few small porgies and sea bass mixing in. Walter Kuscelewicz put a 9.6 lb. tautog aboard his Lady Jo at the Robert Moses bridge on Thursday. The big black took a green crab. Jim added that a few flounder are being taken at the Sore Thumb. Some good bluefishing along the beach on Saturday. Among those who got in on the action was Henny Jentz and his son Joey. The father and son team trolled umbrella rigs in 40 feet of water south of Ocean Beach and put away 12 blues to 10 lbs.

Fisherman Field Editor John Raguso reported the Linda was heavily populated by 10 to 15 lb. bluefish on the weekend. On Sunday, he introduced his youngsters Chris and Marc to bluefishing for the first time and the pair came through with flying colors. Both decked their share of slammers on butterfish baits.

From **Smokey's Bait and Tackle in Bay Shore**, Carl Miller reported good blackfishing on the reef through Friday. He added that plenty of small porgies are mixed with them. The tackle man also noted that he looked over some decent catches of fluke made through Saturday at the inlet. Saturday saw lots of blues trolled and jigged along the beach east of the inlet. Some albacore and bonito were mixed with the choppers. Chunking on the Virginia was a bust on Saturday but good on Sunday. Some big bass and weakfish being livelined on bunker and blackfish in the inlet area.

Anyone looking for that trophy weakfish might try drifting live blackfish along the north side of Robert Moses Park opposite the golf course on incoming water. Quite a few big weaks taken in recent days there along with an occasional big striper. Bunker will work also.

Noel Kappauf at **Captree Bait and Tackle** looked over a catch of 3 bluefin tuna taken aboard Captain Jim McCoy's **Captain Hook** on Saturday. Tom Rogan, Paul Rogan and Scott Molnar took fish of 32, 41 and 48 lbs. while chunking south of the Linda. On Friday, Doreen Brancaleioni checked in a 7.2 lb. blackfish taken at the Sore Thumb aboard a private boat. Also on



Wayne Baker with a brace of fluke weighing 5 and 4¼ lbs. taken outside Fire Island Inlet aboard the Captree open boat, "Capt. Joseph II."

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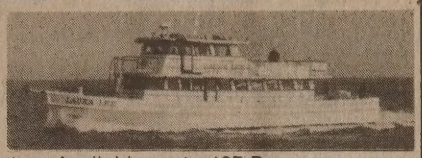

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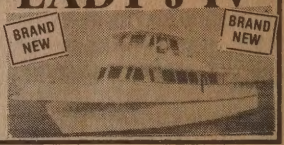

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Friday, Ray Caffiero and Richie Ratner teamed to put away 18 blackfish to 7.4 lbs. at the RM bridge.

Captain Richie Westlind of the **Captree** open boat **Captain Richie** reported that he found some suprisingly good fluking this week from the bridge to the inlet. A couple of trips saw two out of three of the fish being keepers. Some sea bass are mixed with the fluke.

Captain Carl Passero of the open boat **Miss Captree** reported that the Fire Island Reef came alive with porgies this week. The fish are mixed sizes from small to medium with an occasional jumbo. Wednesday saw a very good showing of blacks on an inshore wreck with 7 fares accounting for 97 tautog. John Gutman was high hook with 21 blackfish and sea bass. Thursday's fishing was off, but Friday saw the last drop of the day produce more than 250 sea bass to 4½ lbs. Regulars Big John and Bill accounted for 3 buckets of sea bass between them. A big crowd on Saturday kept busy with mostly sea bass. Maria Daddino and Vinnie Stempel combined for 35 sea bass, 2 ling and a pair of cod. On Sunday, porgies dominated the action with an estimated 600 scup taken in addition to 150 sea bass. Pool fish was a 4½ lb. bass taken by Sonny Angelica. High hook with 51 fish including 37 porgies was Andy DiGiavani, an Exec with Reliance Fuel Oil of Patchogue.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the **Captree open boat Captain Joseph II** called it a pretty decent weekend on inshore wrecks and reefs. Both Saturday and Sunday saw a good pick of sea bass to 5 lbs. Saturday saw the first fair showing of porgies along with an unusual catch of 40 to 50 triggerfish. Porgy fishing broke loose on Sunday with everyone loading up on scup. In addition, 25 to 30 nice blackfish found their way into the bags of patrons.

Captain Ralph Green of the open boat **Miss Babylon** noted improved flounder fishing in the state channel near Gilgo. Ralph noted that sea bass and porgies are mixed with the flatties. He has been mixing in some fluking when tide conditions are right, which was the case this past week. On Friday's trip, Joe Lang put away 9 keeper fluke.

Speaking from **Babylon Fishing Station**, George Stevenson reported a catch of 5 yellowfin tuna from 40 to 65 lbs. for the crew aboard Jim Nealis' Pelican on Saturday. The fish were chunked and trolled at the canyon. Tuna seekers who opted for the Virginia on Saturday found virtually no action. It was a different story on Sunday when most boats in the large fleet were able to hook up with at least a couple of fish. Some boats landed as many as 9 or 10 tuna. On Sunday, John Donohue of the Miss Sea returned from the Virginia with a 110 lb. bluefin. Sunday morning saw a good showing of blues just outside the inlet for trollers and jiggers. Inside the bay, blackfishing was good during

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Thirteen year old Doug O'Hara weighed this 4.12 lb. fluke at Smokey's Bait and Tackle in Bay Shore. It was caught near the Robert Moses Bridge.

the week but very picky on the weekend. Fluke are about done.

Speaking from **Augie's Tackle Shop in Babylon**, John Gattuso reported that Captain Ray Nettuno of the charter boat **Cindy Ann** did an overnighter at the canyon on Friday/Saturday. The trip produced two bigeyes t o 175 lbs., 5 albacore, 3 yellowfin and 5 dolphin. Vinnie DeTommaso anchored up in the Shore Thumb Pocket Saturday where he managed to put together a nice mixed bag of 6 flounder, 30 porgies, 2 blowfish and a 4.7 lb. triggerfish. John added that he knew of some fluke still being taken near the RM bridge on the weekend. Blackfishing on Kismet Reef was very good through Friday but slowed Saturdy and Sunday. Crabbing remains vey good locally but snappers seem to be about finished.

A couple of very impressive striped bass were checked in at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**. Mike Andreani of the shop put a cow of 49½ lbs. on the scale for James Wrieth on Friday morning. On Saturday morning, Ray Bartlett stopped at the shop to weigh a 32.14 lb. striper taken in Fire Island Inlet. Both fish were livelined. Blackfishing was solid at Kismet during the week. On Friday, Don Hirsch and his crew aboard Playing Hooky, totalled 18 blackfish to 6 lbs. Flounder produced some pretty decent action on the weekend in the state channel near Lindenhurst Cut and Gilgo. Lots of blues stretched from the inlet east to the RM tower on Saturday, with boatmen doing a good job jiggng and trolling just a short distance from the beach. The week-

end's most interesting story concerned Tom Michael and Fred Martin who sought only to bring home a few sea bass and bluefish from a stint on the Fire Island reef Sunday. Instead, an estimated 200 lb. mako shark found one of the bluefish rigs to his liking. The pair spent more than a half hour tempting fate before the light line and 18 inch leader failed them.

Mike asked that we remind customers that the shop's new fall hours are 7AM to 7PM during the week and 6AM to 7PM on weekends. Live eels, crabs and fresh mussels will be stocked through the fall.

At **Charlie's Bait and Tackle in Lindenhurst** John Schaefer reported blues along the beach in 30 to 40 feet of water east and west of the inlet on Saturday. Some big bass being taken ner the bridges on live bunker. Good blackfish reports this week from Oak Beach, Kismet the RM bridge and the CG station. Flounder getting started in the state channel and at the Sore Thumb.

Bob Vitale at **Bob's Bait and Tackle in Amity Harbor** spoke of blacks at the bridges and flounder getting started in the state channel at Gilgo. On Saturday, JC Hooker returned from Kismet with a cooler full of blacks up to 8 lbs. Micheal Fuchs has been taking a mixed bag of blues, bass and weaks on live bunker aboard his Impulse. He has been working near the Wantagh bridges. Porgies along with a few snappers at Tanner Park and some flounder beginning to show there as well. Bob noted that surprisingly enough, fluke fishing was much improved this week with good numbers of 14 to 16 inch fish taken near the RM bridge as well as in the state channel.

Speaking from **Edelman's in Farmingale**, Scott Molnar knew of some good tuna action south of the Linda and north of the Virginia on Saturday. Also on Saturday Joe Gargiuolo checked in a 12½ lb. false albacore. Blackfish were in good supply during the week but slowed on the weekend some decent fluking reported by several customers this week at the inlet.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

As we slide into October, we find the fall flounder still on the picky side, but supplemented by mixed bag catches inside of sea bass, porgies, blackfish, king fish, blowfish, an occasional fluke and a surprise package bluefish. Some very good jumbo fluking is going on to the west as the fish begin their outward migrations. Bluefishing day and night con-

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tinues to be very good for the most part, with an occasional slower day or night due to conditions. Offshore has been quiet this week as near as we can determine. Plenty of stripers inside falling to clam chum at the bridges and at the State Channel, while snappers continue strong.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

Mike at **Causeway Tackle in Wantagh** said the best bet this past week has been porgies and blacks on incoming at the Big M and 2nd and 3rd Wantagh. Fiddlers for quantities of blackfish and greens for bigger specimens. Porgies have been going to 3/4 lbs. on sandworms, blacks from 1/2 to 1½ lbs., with a few larger. Some sea bass and kings mixed in. Flounder on the slow side, although sharp shooter John scored with 65 flatties Friday at Black Banks. Fluke have been fair, nice size in the State Channel east of the 3rd Wantagh on the ebb using sand eels. Big bluefish on live bunker inside, outgoing best with a few small weaks mixed in. Clam chummers taking some bass in the State Channel. On Saturday Frank Leonick busted a 31 lb. 9 oz. striper at Jones Inlet on a chunk. Cholera Bank yielded a 5 lb. 4 oz. sea bass Saturday for Bernie Reiback. Snappers very strong at the first Wantagh and much improved BCCs off John Burns park.

We hear from Scott at **Merrick Tackle** of smallish flounder, porgies and blowfish in the Merrick Bay area along with a bonus of lots of rock crabs. Bonito and blues are being caught from the west end jetty, he said, on plugs and tins, while blues are all over the bay in such accessible spots as Haunts and Swift Creeks and the 2nd Wantagh.

Captain Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** reported that due to the super winds that blew on Friday, bluefishing was off its feed, but things bounced back Saturday and even more so on Sunday with mostly big blues taken up to 16 lbs., with some bonito and albacore mixed in. This was just 16 miles SE of Jones Inlet. Richie says things really, really improved since Friday's windstorm.

A call from Captain Pat of the **Lady J Fleet** spoke of all charters being for blues this week with catches being a trifle erratic due to weather and sea conditions. However, fish were caught on all trips. It was bait and chum nights and both bait and diamond jigs daytime. In the earlier part of the week fish were smaller but the weekend saw catches of mostly 13 to 18 pounders. Trips this week were sailed fo: Steve Fusco group, Newsday; Katherine Bar, Garden City Park, Phillip Morris Intl., Sterns Bros., NYC, Al Seiger party, Eastman Kodak, J.C. Penny, Horst Ehinger group and Ernie Wyatt party.

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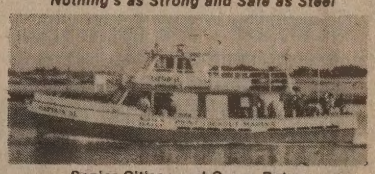

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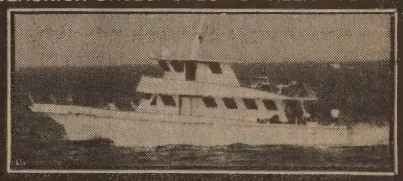

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Callahan and a couple of pals fishing off Short Beach at Kings Park on the North Shore, had a super catch of 15 blackfish from 8 to 12 lbs. fishing a rocky bottom using clam and blue claw crabs cut in half for bait. This was on outgoing tide.

As for the Freeport action, a call from Skipper Mike Danon of the **Captain Lou Fleet** advised that both boats have had good flounder action all week with plenty of porgy and sea bass contributions to fill out the catches, plus a few blowfish, kings and a couple of fluke. Mike says the catches will be even better as water temperatures continue to drop. He also said that on Wednesdays, the **Captain Lou VI** will be sailing at 6:30AM for the late season jumbo ocean fluke, since as Mike says, "It's doormat time."

A call from Captain Sy of the **Bluefin Fleet** told of Monday's tuna trip which was a 10-man charter resulting in a catch of 24 tuna to 170 lbs. This was a combination of two bigeyes, and the result were yellowfin and longfin tuna. Butterfish was the hook bait and fish were also jigged. Chum consisted of butterfish, spearing, sand eels and bunker. Please note that an additional date has been added to the season's tuna schedule, see ad for details. Bluefishing took an upswing after Friday's blow with fish to 15 lbs. Norm Geller had the 15 lber., while Jack Conroy was high hook on one trip with 24 choppers.

We hear from Bob at the **Freeport Boatmen's Association** that though Saturday's bluefishing was picky, Sunday's catch was a bonanza at Cholera, Middle Grounds, 17 and along the beaches on 12 to 18 lb. fish. The **Super Spray II** had excellent ocean bottom fishing this week working local wrecks and hard pieces with big sea bass 2 to 4 lbs., blacks to 8 lbs. and porgies to 4 lbs. Various charters had mixed bags inside. The charter boat **Norseman** had a very good midweek tuna trip fishing the canyon, Bacardi and Virginia Wrecks. Brought over the rail were 17 yellowfin 50 to 65 lbs., 14 bluefin, 30 to 85 lbs. and 12 dolphin to 50 lbs.

Captain Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** out of **Atlantic Beach** has been having very good tuna charters in the area of the Virginia Wreck with fish to 125 lbs. One charter also had on a 300 lb. mako (estimated) on light line. Two big leaps were enjoyed by all before the fish broke the line. Ronnie's blue-

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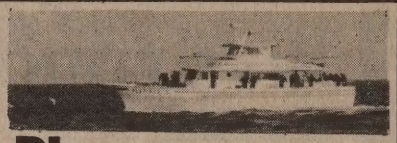

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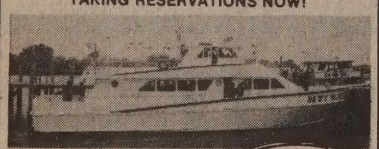

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fishing trips continued excellent, with lots of weakfish now being mixed up in the catch.

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook** advised that on Thursday schoolie action at the bridges at night was unreal, with fish being taken on clam bait and chum, cast or trolled bucktail, diamond jigs and plugs. Lots of action and a few keepers to boot. Red hot were the ABB, Big M and Wantagh bridges. Blues at night throughout Reynolds, best on bunker. Blackfishing super great, fish up to 8 lbs. at the bridges and jetties, with green crabs yielding the biggest fish.

Over in Pt. Lookout, the **Captain Al** has switched over to his fall special w which is wreck fishing for fat catches of sea bass, porgies and blacks. Al said the trips are catching great and that people are coming out in droves to participate. Also mixed in are triggerfish in the 5 lb. class, weakfish to 12 lbs., fluke to 5 lbs., along with ling and blues.

It was a fair to good week of floundering for the **Miss Point Lookout**. On Monday, Roger and Bob had 16. Tuesday, the best day of the week, Mike Vanacora of North Bellmore was high hook with 39, while Howard Hulse of Hicksville had 20, Muriel Capriani and Terry Wallace of Bayside, 20, Sam Morton of Floral Park, 12, Sid Lerner, 11 and Marty Barnett of Queens Village, 10. Thursday AM Tony Valani had 12, Bill Carberry, 13, and Mike V, 12. I the PM, Jim and Grace had 25 flatties. Friday AM, Mr. and Mrs. Smith had 28 and a kingfish, while Joe Spoisa of Valley Stream had 10 to 2½ lbs. John Spinelli was happy with 14 flounder.

From the charter boat **Marie III** comes word of Saturday and Sunday having excellent catches in the bay of flounder to 2 lbs., porgies to 1 lb. and sea bass to 3 lbs. with some blacks, fluke and blowfish mixed in. Catches average 10 to 40 fish a man with both tides working, clams as hook bait. Friday and Saturday night's bluefish trips were picky from Choloera to 17, but fish were big, 10 to 15 lbers.

Captain Dennis of the **Night Hawk** told of super mixed bag fishing all during the week inside on flounder, sea bass, blacks, porgies, some fluke and kingfish from Reynolds to the Big M, outgoing best. The numbers of flounder are increasing he said. High hooks of the week were 67 mixed fish for Frank Calarco and 39 for Phil Delaney. Saturday saw slow bluefishing from Cholera to the sisters on bait, but Sunday was super fishing bait at the NA buoy, fish 10 to 20 lbs.

NEW YORK BIGHT

To the west in Sheepshead Bay, we have to start on a sad note, learning of the death from cancer of Mike, founder and owner of **Mike's Tackle** across from the Sheepshead fleet. The shop continues to be run by Mike's son Charlie. Blackfishing was good at

Seabright we are told on green crab. Bluefish trips remain good to excellent on bait both day and night. Fluke tapering off in some areas and holding steady in others, said Charlie. He knew of some pretty good tuna catches at the Barcardi this past week.

Aboard the **Betty W. IV**, skipper Al Coley terms Sunday's bluefishing "fabulous" at the Mud Buoy, with jumbos going 8 to 20 lbs. on both bait and on diamond jigs. Al said that during the week, bluefish catches were very good too and that now's the time to come down and load up.

Captain Bob of the **Flamingo III** told of good bluefishing all week long with fish running big now up to 18 lbs. on both bait and chum or on diamond jigs. He said even Saturday was good, despite poor conditions due to Friday's wind. Hot was the Mud Buoy area on fish 10 lbs. and up with albies and bonito mixed in some days plus some weakfish. Bob said the great fall fishing is now and the boat is not crowded. Plenty of room and plenty of fish.

Captain Butch of the brand new aluminum super cruiser **Zephyr** said the fluking this week has been excellent and on some days close to fantastic, fishing the deeper part of the channels, the edges, Tin Can and New Channel. Sunday's catch averaged 15 to 25 keepers a man with one customer having a super day of 40 keepers. There's about a 50 percent keeper ratio now said Butch and still a ton of fish to come out. Sizes have ranged from just keepers to 3 lbers. Butch said things really took off on Wednesday and were still going strong through Sunday.,

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

A good week of fishing was followed by a late in the week blow, but most reports were upbeat. Bluefish were featured everywhere, and the best of the season's scup fishing was also good news for sinker bouncers.

WESTERN SOUND

John's Gun in **New Rochelle** liked prime time bluefishing mornings and evenings for fish to sixteen pounds. One veteran from the NYAC had a fine catch of slammers off Execution with the Larchmont breakwater also worth trying. **Jack's Bait** on **City Island** noted an upswing in action for tautog in thirty to forty feet of water. Green crab and fiddlers were preferred baits. John Cacciola at the **Glen Cove Sport**

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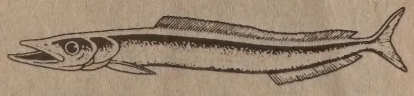

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A trip to the Mud Hole aboard the Sheepshead Bay based, Ranger on September 8th, produced the bluefins and yellowfins for William Cain.

Shop has upped his bunker sales to some eighty pounds a day and figures that there are some slammers to twenty poinds out there. Cacciola suggests Sea Cliff, Appleby's and Morgan's for best action and advises boaters to wire troll until the schools are located; then throw poppers like the Gags in 1½ ounce sizes.

Carl Giangrande of the **Reliable** has switched to the Sound where he's finding a good mix of scup and tautog in 45 feet of water. Saturday's action was around Larchmont and Mamaroneck, while Sunday's excursion took the boat all the way up to Northport. Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** is seeing more big porgies every day, but the half dozen biggest scup of the day on Sunday were chopped in half by bluefish off the reefs around Buoy 11B at Eaton's. Rockpiles from Center Island east ar producing more tautog every day too.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

George Valentine at **Four Winds** enjoyed blitz conditions until Saturday when the bulkhead blues disappeared from Huntington Harbor and reappeared around Sand City and Duck Island. Big swimming plugs were still preferred. One angler off Eaton's managed two dozen tautog to eleven pounds off Buoy 13. Marshall Field was good for scup all week. The **Ever Ready** had a good weekend trip from Huntington Town Dock on Sunday too.

Captain John Alberda of **Sound Charters in Huntington** reported bluefish stacked like cordwood off of Eaton's Neck in recent days. A charter for Robert Holmes on Saturday produced 40 blues to 13 lbs. near 11B. The day was finished off with a mess of porgies to 1½ lb. taken near Lloyd's Point. Sunday morning's charter for Bill Borak Sr. and Jr. and friends Bill and Lou produced 75 blues to 16 lbs. Sunday's PM trip produced 35 blues to 17 lbs. for Barney Lane.

Over at **Huntington Prop and Tackle** Jerry Cedar spoke of some decent bass being taken in Cold Spring Harbor and at Marshall Field. On Thursday Bob Nace clicked with an 18 lb. striper. Friday saw Gary Silivanch take a 20½ lb. bass. Both were taken on plugs. Bjorn Wolddeck worked 11B to the tune of 6 blackfish to 8 lbs. on Wednesday. Bluefish have been in the harbor all week according to Jerry with some of the choppers reaching the 20 lb. mark. On Sunday, George Papalexandro and his son Jamie put away half a dozen blues to 18½ lbs. at 11B.

Ilene Fleischmann at **Greenlawn Sport Shop** threw in a nice report of tautog off Makamah on Sunday on soft bait. Green crabs were best off Buoy 11B. Al Sturges at the **Complete Angler** in Miller Place advised anglers to hit the harbor around Mount Sinai

very early. Sturges himself had eleven blues one morning while snagging bunker. The Shoreham pipe was loaded with boats on Sunday.

John Caraftis at the **Caraftis Fishing Station** in **Port Jefferson** was excited about some of the humpbacked porgies in the 60 to 70 foot depths off the ledges. Oldfield had small and medium sized scup while there were still plenty of sands in the harbor. Tautog action was picking up around Oldfield and off the Middle Grounds, and you could troll or jig blues over 10 pounds off buoy 11. Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's Fishing Station** in **Mount Sinai** noted that anglers were picking up tautog off the beach as well as around local rockpiles. Fred Laager at **Edelman's East** liked the action of the mouth of the Nissequogue River on poppers. Although the bass have disappeared, there are plenty of blues to 7 pounds.

Bill at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** figures that they've got more business now than they did in July with hooks, line, rigs and bunker flying across the counter until 7PM. Bunker chunks were hauling blues up to alligator sizes all the way from Hagerman's Landing to Shoreham, and catches over four per angler were the norm. Action could break out any time from 2PM until dark. A few fluke to twenty inches were still being taken around the Nissequogue.

Anthony Taverna of the **Morning Star** toughed out the weather conditions with parties on Thursday and Saturday. He had some fifty choppers in cocktail sizes close to the harbor and took about one hundred scup and a few tautog in 45 feet of water on two trips. Scup sizes ranged from ¾-pound up. Roy Cash of the **Port Jeff Ace** was still bluefishing on Sunday night when we called. Double shifts are tough!

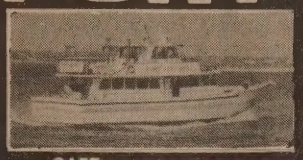
NORTH FORK

Ed Kopack at **Warren's Tackle Center** was elated about the steady bluefish action for fish to 8 pounds along beaches from Mattituck to Southold. Kopack suggested butterfish chunks as preferred bait except around Southold where bunker is best. **Charlie's Mattituck Fishing Station** had boats fishing for scup off the motel and the Firing Range with good results on Sunday after Saturday's blow. The **Mattituck Inlet Station** liked the action on bluefish over seven pounds off Horton's Point. Diamond jigging was the ticket for most. Creek fishing for flounder bailed out a few anglers in Saturday's blow.

Louise Kitsch at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** was happy with Sound flounder action and noted a super catch of bluefish east of Gardiners Island Saturday fro the **Prowler**. One drift produced over 40 choppers. A 5½ pound tautog was taken from the railroad dock. Ace Cottral at **Pleasures of the Sea** told us that Tony

PORT JEFFERSON

PORT JEFF ACE



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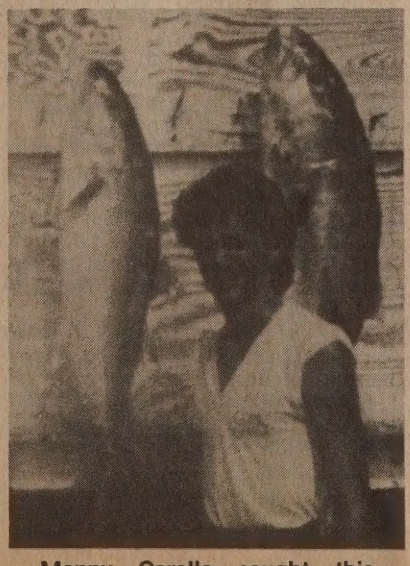

Manny Corallo caught this amberjack on an open boat during a recent trip to Florida. Subscriber photo.

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Loperfido's **Fishalot** had a few nice fluke off the south side of Montauk on Saturday and that John Sinning loaded up on scup and tautog south of Plum Island. Local boats were still scoring on scup around Plum as well as off Petty's Bight and Truman's Beach. Constellation Rock was another area worth a look.

Phil Loria at **Captain Marty's** in **New Suffolk** saw a couple of buckets of really nice porgies off Nassau Point on Thursday along with a few small weakfish of 1½ pounds or so. The big surprise was a catch of a half dozen blues to 10 pounds off Fishermen's Beach on bunker chunks.

Bluefish sizes have picked up for Richie Jensen on the **Nancy Ann**. Jensen says that the norm is eight to 10 pounds from Pigeon Rip while Plum Gut has some smaller fish. Jensen will be night fishing for bass from Thursday on, just in time to get into shape for the **Full Moon Bass Tournament** put on by Pleasures of the Sea. Boat entries are $50, and those who are interested should call 765-3918 for details.

Larry Ciccotto's **Prime Time III** has been scoring on mixed bags that include small tautog in great numbers and some big flounder. The boat had a number of 50 flounder days last week and pools were taken by 3½ and 3¼ pound "rugs". Ed Richenbacher of Westbury had the winning flounder on Sunday, fishing clams on the drift. There are scup mixed with the flounder and tautog too.

John Rainis of the **Sea Star** found tide and wind tough on the weekend, but called the week "terrific" with buckets of fish for all. Best tautog were around 8 pounds on all kinds of baits except green crabs. Scup, sea bass and flounder were mixed with the tautog.

Larry Porter of the **Brand X** called to detail "super" fishing for scup and tautog in water depths from 50 to 120 feet. Both Saturday and Sunday saw morning fishing so good that pails were filled by noon. Four sharpies apparently filled a 150 quart Igloo cooler with fish on Sunday. Dave Brennan got in on the scup action with the **Peconic Star** as well and told us that the shallower drops still had the larger porgies on Sunday. Brennan was enthusiastic about a bluefish trip he made on Saturday night in Plum Gut. The boat had over 250 choppers in sizes to 10 pounds. Assisted by Dave Greene, Brennan is considering running some night trips for blues next season on a regular basis.

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Several impressive stripers highlight this week's report along with some hot and heavy bluefish action in the Montauk surf. Also big blues continue to create havoc in Huntington Harbor and along north shore beaches. Lots of bait moving along many south shore beaches over the weekend with shots of mixed sized blues and some school bass reported in some areas.

Johnny Kronuch out at **Johnny's Tackle Shop in Montauk** said that the bluefish action got cranked up again on Wednesday with some pretty wild action continuing through Saturday night. Most of the best fishing was taking place from 5 or 6PM into darkness. Casters were lined shoulder to shoulder on the weekend from North Bar all the way around to Turtle Cove and the big crowds made for a pretty hectic scene. A couple of weaks and some school bass were somehow culled from among the blues during the nighttime hours. Thursday appeared the best day of the week with lots of blues being taken through most of the day and night. Largest weakfish put on the scale this week was a 13¾ lb. tiderunner taken Saturday night by Tom Sherry. Several casters picked away at school bass down in bRownd and Kings.

Gary Hall of **Sonshine Tackle** said that he fished the Point Thursdyay and Friday nights and was witness to some wild bluefishing from North Bar to Turtle Cove. During the night, he managed to take a pair of weakfish as well as some bass to 19 lbs. from several wet suiting spots. Gary complained that blues outnumbered bass and weaks 5 to 1 even during the dark hours. Needles, Bombers and darters all received plenty of attention.

Over at **J&J Tackle in Patchogue** Paul Graniello said that lots of school bass to 12 lbs. kept casters occupied along Fire Island National Seashore several mornings this past week. Small Bombers and blue-back Rebels at daybreak were the key. During the day, lots of small blues roamed the same stretch of beach as well as adjacent Smith Point Park.

John Albanese of **Islander Canvas Bait and Tackle** said that he worked Fire Island Inlet with bunker chunks on Friday night and managed to put away 4 big bluefish. He seemed more

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Jamie Schuler caught this 68 lb. bluefin tuna southeast of Shinnecock Inlet on 9-5-87. Photo courtesy of Molnar's Landing in Hampton Bays.

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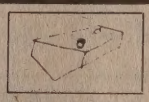

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excited about the fish he dropped, and estimated 30 lb. striper which he lost at the rocks. It also fell for a bunker chunk. One of his customers reported taking a couple of school bass to 30 inches on sandworms just before daybreak one day late in the week at Democrat Point.

Dave Canale of **J&R Sports Center in Oakdale** reported a 13½ lb. blue taken on bait at Cedar Beach for Steve Berhendt on Friday night. Dave knew that late Thursday night into Friday morning, casters got in a good inning with big blues on bait at Cedar. A couple of bass were mixed with the blues on Wednesday night. All of this action occurred in the wee hours of the morning before daybreak.

A couple of fine stripers came to our attention after last week's deadline but still deserve some recognition. Phil Holowinski of East Islip used a Musso Super Strike darter to drill a 40 lb. striper from the Cedar Beach suds last Sunday night. Frank Scusca used a bunker chunk to take a 39.1 lb. cow from the Jones Beach surf during the day last Monday. Noel Kauppauf at **Captree Bait and Tackle** who reported on Frank's fish also had a more recent cow to report. Warren Conklin was fishing a bunker chunk at Field 4 Robt. Moses near midday on Sunday when a 37.12 lb. striper found the bait. Noel knew of some decent bluefish action along the beach at Field 4, 3, 2 and Democrat late in the week. Barry Greenberg had his hands full at Democrat Point on Saturday morning when a 10 lb. albacore intercepted a popping plug intended for bluefish.

Striper Surf Club PR Man Mike Kaland reported on the efforts of fellow club member John Williams. John spent Saturday night into Sunday morning tossing bait into the swirling currents in Jones Inlet. He was well rewarded to the tune of stripers weighing 23, 18½, 12, 12, and 8 lbs.

West end surf rat Frank Lallo filled us in on recent action on the western end of the south shore. Frank knew of some blues being taken on tin after daybreak and in the evenings at Breezy Point. Some school bass in the 3 to 10 lb. range being taken in the same area after dark. Frank also knew of a 51 lb. striper taken by a New York City detective in the Coney Island area late last week. Big bluefish being taken after dark on chunk bait in Gerritsen Inlet and a few school bass being culled from the jetties around Long Beach. Frank trekked out to Montauk on Saturday where he and a friend loaded up on blues Saturday evening in Turtle Cove. He noted that there was another solid showing of blues Sunday morning on North Bar.

The biggest surf caught striper to come to our attention this season was reported by **Mike's Tackle Shop in Sheepshead Bay**. David Schwartzman of Brooklyn used a homemade plug to take a 56½ lb. cow from a Rockaway beach on Friday. The huge cow measured 56 inches long. Congratula-

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	2:40	3:15	3:25	4:05	3:20	3:50	4:30	4:50	6:00	6:25	6:15	6:35	2:50	3:25	10/1
FRI.	4:00	4:25	4:40	5:15	4:35	5:00	5:35	6:00	7:45	8:05	7:20	7:50	4:00	4:30	10/2
SAT.	5:10	5:35	5:50	6:15	5:45	6:10	6:40	7:00	9:05	9:25	8:25	8:50	5:00	5:25	10/3
SUN.	6:10	6:30	6:50	7:15	6:45	7:05	7:35	8:00	10:00	10:25	9:25	9:50	5:55	6:15	10/4
MON.	7:00	7:20	7:40	8:05	7:35	7:55	8:25	8:50	10:50	11:15	10:15	10:45	6:45	7:05	10/5
TUES.	7:45	8:05	8:30	8:50	8:20	8:40	9:10	9:40	11:35	—	11:05	11:30	7:30	7:55	10/6
WED.	8:30	8:50	9:15	9:40	9:05	9:25	9:55	10:25	12:00	12:15	11:50	—	8:15	8:40	10/7
THURS.	9:10	9:30	10:00	10:25	9:50	10:10	10:40	11:10	12:45	12:55	12:20	12:35	9:00	9:20	10/8

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Manoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−1 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Nareague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, noth side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 10/1	6:56	6:43
FRI. 10/2	6:57	6:41
SAT. 10/3	6:58	6:39
SUN. 10/4	6:59	6:37
MON. 10/5	7:00	6:35
TUE. 10/6	7:01	6:33
WED. 10/7	7:02	6:32

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 10/1	3:50PM	—
FRI. 10/2	4:30PM	1:00AM
SAT. 10/3	5:00PM	2:20AM
SUN. 10/4	5:25PM	3:40AM
MON. 10/5	5:50PM	4:55AM
TUE. 10/6	6:15PM	6:10AM
WED. 10/7	6:35PM	7:20AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
10/22	10/29	10/7	10/14

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The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	12:30	**6:30**	12:40	**7:15**
Fri.	1:30	**7:35**	1:45	**8:05**
Sat.	2:20	**8:30**	2:40	**8:55**
Sun.	3:10	**9:20**	3:30	**9:45**
Mon.	4:00	**10:05**	4:15	**10:30**
Tues.	4:45	**10:45**	4:45	**11:10**
Wed.	5:25	**11:30**	5:40	**11:55**
Thurs.	6:10	—	6:35	**12:25**

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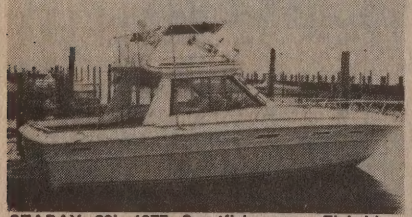
WELLCRAFT V-20' Cuddy. Fully loaded. 140 Evinrude PT&T. Galv. trailer, power winch. Compl fishing machine. Full electronics. More. $8600. 516-294-3059/421-9362.

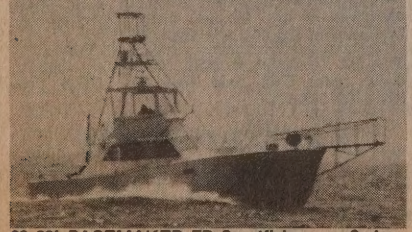
1983 31' JC Sportfisherman, flybridge, 3 station steering. Insulated fish hole, fight chair. Full electronics, V6 71 TI diesel. $83,000. Neg. 1-203-838-0503.

LUHRS 340—offers more standard features than any other Sportfisherman in her class, incl. the welded aluminum tower, compl. w/console. In stock along w/290 & 342. Also dealers for Sportcraft, Chris Craft, OMC Sea Drive; OMC Stern Drive; Johnson; Mercruiser. SPELLMAN'S MARINE, 1708 North Hwy, Southampton, NY 11968; 516-283-7907.



SEARAY 30' 1977 Sportfisherman. Flybridge, Loran, VHF, DF, Flo Scan. 50 hrs on rebuilt 260 hp Mercs. 240 gal fuel. Asking: $32,000. 516-661-7607.

The Ultimate 21' Center Console. New 140 hp Suzuki w/SS prop, Armstrong brkt. Custom marine carpentry tackle center, custom SS railings. Teak covering boards, teak pulpit, fold down teak antenna arch. Outriggers, full instrumention, auto pilot, dual batt., Loran, VHF, CB, 2 fish finders, SW washdown. There is not a finer, more fully equip center console on the East Coast. Showroom cond. $18,500. Will also sell W/O electronics. 516-623-1639.



66 39' PACEMAKER FB Sportfisherman Sedan, twin Cats. 300 hrs. Fully equip. Commercially documented for charters. Tower, pulpit, etc. Eves After 7: 516-689-9585.

SPORTCRAFT 27' Sportfisherman, 350 Chev. Low hrs. FWC, Loran, CB, VHF, 2 recorders. Sea Temp, dual batt., trim tabs. Excl. cond. Firm $14,500. After 6: 789-0585.

19' MFG Cuddy, 135 hp Evinrude. Full canvas. '86 Galv. trailer. Many extras. $5200. 516-746-0259.

31' BERTRAM Canyon Runner. New engines, new fuel tanks—400 gal. New electronics, new decks. Over $40,000 invested in 1986 season. New riggers, radar. A custom 25 knt. cruise fishing machine. 516-288-1761/283-7525. Ready to sell; have purchased another boat. See at Indian Cove Marina, Shinnecock. Ask: $42,000.

1985 18' KENN KRAFT Center Console, '83 115 hp Mercury, compass, VHF, DF. $6495. THE MOORING, 516-766-0080.

1974 24' PROLINE center console. Compl. rebuilt 1986. 130 hp Volvo I/B. Custom cuddy, Bimini & winter cover. VHF, new Ray Jeff 480 recorder. In water. Will Demo. $6500. Eves: 516-669-0695.

GRADY WHITE 22 Cuddy, Twin 140 hpJ. Loaded, w/Tandem trailer. Ron: 467-5758.

24' WINNER Sportfish cuddy, 198 hp Mercruiser, VHF, depth finder. $7950. THE MOORING, 516-766-0080.

MUST SELL: 10 hp Merc. Approx. 1965. Excl. running cond. $400. 718-276-3923.

25' SEACRAFT Cuddy, 260 OMC. Replaced in 1985. Loaded; many extras. $11,500. THE MOORING, 516-766-0080.

1959 EGG FBSF 31', 11': Extensive restorations. Chrysler crowns FWC, totally rebuilt. Low hrs. Teak decking throughout, new electronics. Sleeps 6. Many extras. Turn key & seaworthy. Offered by owner who takes great pride in his boat. Reasonably priced. Berthed Stratford, Ct. After 7PM: 203-775-1183.

GAMBLER 17' center console, SS rails, bait well, Posi foam, cushions. 60 hp Johnson w/hydrafoils & new power head. Load Rite galv. trailer. All 1984 & in immac. cond. Runs great. $4600. 516-226-1889.

65' Steel Head/Charter GM's
46' 1971 Chris Aquahome, Gas
46' 1985 Oceans 6/92s
45' 1982 Glass Charter/Dive, GM
42' 1979 Chris T/F GM 8/71 TI
225 hp Johnson 87/88 Zero hrs.
40' 1982 Egg Tournament 6/71 TIs
37' 1981 Stapleton Canyon GMs
37' 1979 Glass Lob/Work 6/71
36' 1984 Runaway, Volvos
35' 1974 Bertram S/F Cummins
31' 1973 Uniflite Chryslers
30' 1974 Columbia Tower, Perkins
30' 1969 Morgan Sail
KARP MARINE, 516-581-3308.

1986 25' GRADY WHITE Sailfish, twin 200 hp Yamahas, radar, fight chair, color video, Loran, VHF, etc. Canyon ready. $51,5900 or B/O. Al: 215-946-3150/860-1646.

20' PRIVATEER
LOA 20' 2" BEAM 7' 10"
PORT OF EGYPT, Southold, 516-765-2445

1987 BOSTON WHALER 20' Outrage, 200 hp Johnson VRO. VHF, LCD fish finder. All equip. Ready to go. $25,000. 516-668-2111. Ask for Charlie.

THOMPSON 252FB/SF 25' 1984 Merc. 228 I/O under 150 hrs. Cruise equip. 100 gal. tank. Sleeps 4. Galley & head. Swim platform, windlass, Loran, VHF, ADF, knot log, AM/FM, 3 depth finders, tabs & more. Best offer; new boat coming. Days: 718-629-1454. Eves: 718-376-6340.

38' BERTRAM 1979, Turbo Cummins, tower, teak decks, cockpit controls. Windlass, generator, reverse air. Stereo, freezer, refrig., micro-oven. Murray chair, Avon raft. Full curtains & covers. Auto pilot, radar, VHF, CB, Loran, color recorder. Many other quality electronics & extras. Exceptionally well maintained. Offers over $135K considered. 201-223-8510.

25' CHRIS Lancer, flybridge, twin station. New 350 GM & Volvo 280. True Deep V, fast & dry. Full electronics. Outriggers. Mint. Many extras. Excl. offshore/inshore. Huge cockpit for fishing. Only $10,200. 924-9446.

1986 BAYLINER Trophy 25', flybridge, Bimini w/full encl. 260 hp, 105 gal., 90 hrs. Transom plat., Lowrance, VHF, 10' beam, fish well. Full galley, head. Sleeps 6. AM/FM cassette. Mint. $43,000 invested for $32,000. Day: 475-2689. Eves: 475-8904.

EVINRUDE

NEW 1985, 1986, 1987 NEW
6-$598; 8-$698; 9.9-$948; 28-$1498; 40-$1598; 50-$1998; 88-$2698; 110-$3298; 225-$4998. SEALAND MARINE, 48 Merrick Rd., Amity Harbor, NY 11701; 516-842-1242. FOB/WI. Ship anywhere.

28' COLUMBIA II—The Ultimate Fishing Boat. A chance to own a fully equip. 28' Sportfisherman. Turn the key & you're ready for sharks or any kind of fishing. The boat features tower w/full instrumentation, teak bow pulpit, teak transom platform & transom door. Powered by a Merc 260 hp FWC I/B w/170 gal. tank. In the deck are 2 big, insulated, flush mounted fish boxes. Accessories incl. Furuno 24 mi. radar, Robertson auto pilot, interphased w/Micrologic Loran. Features 3 Lowrance depth recorders, 2 digital & 1 paper machine w/dual transducer selection, a printing sea water temp, VHF & CB radios. Sports an auto anchor windlass, outriggers, trim tabs, SW washdown, full polyurethane flotation in hull & cannot sink. Built-in tackle boxes, 2 fwd bunks, sink, stove, marine toilet, shore-power hook-up & built-in batt. charger. Stored inside, ready for viewing & water ready. Boat is mint. All this for the low price of $49,990. For appt. to view it, call 516-862-9254.

1985 20' PROLINE center console. Full transom, '85 115 Yamaha, VHF, depth finder, spray hood, dual batt., power trim & tilt. $9000. Days: 516-226-9030. Eves: 516-842-4169.

BLACK FIN 29 1984 COMBI
Custom tower, sunshade & controls. T/454 Crusaders, 330 gal. fuel cap. Top electronics inc. Furuno radar, Furuno LC-90 Loran, Icom VHF, Raytheon JFV-90 video DF - 600 watt. Double spreader outriggers. Compl. rigged for big game fishing. Custom stand-up cabin. Low hrs. At Montauk; mint. Serious calls only. Reduced: $76,000. 718-204-4777.

1 Pair 454 Merc. motors. SW cooled, w/'86 manifolds & trans. $2500 pair. After 6PM; 212-824-7553.

GRADY WHITE 84, 24' Ofshore cuddy, 228 I/O. Low hrs. Mint. $18K. 516-757-2597.

1987 SEAWAY 20' center console. Boat & motor manufacturer's Demo. Less than 10 hrs. VHF, depth finder. Complete inst. Powered by Suzuki 200 hp Anniversary Edition. Compl. w/deluxe trailer. Will deliver. Ask: $20,000. 201-534-5057.

MOVING—MUST SELL. 1971 Stamas 26' Americana t/155 OMC I/O. Excl. cond. In water for Demo. $7990 Firm. Electronics neg. 516-273-2139.

1981 STARCRAFT 14' Alum. boat, 25 hp Johnson motor w/many extras. $1200. 516-623-2499.

PURSUIT, new 1987 26', 260 Merc. Trim tabs, compass, dual batt. Rod holders, SW washdown. Great fishing machine. $34,500. SEAFORD MARINE, 783-2628.

IS IT TRUE you can buy boats for $43 through the U.S. Government? Get the facts today! 1-312-742-1142. Ext. 7161.

BARGAIN: 23' Mako 115 Merc., sprayhood, digital depth. Excl. $5000. Days M-F: 212-973-6125. Eves: 516-541-8989.

1986 PRIVATEER C/C, 1983 70 hp Johnson. Complete Pkg. Must sell. $9700. For details, call: 718-474-5883.

1982 28' BLACK FIN COMBI, 82-L diesels, tower, Rupp riggers, Si-Tex radar, Si-Tex Loran w/remote, Si-Tex recorder, Koden video sonar, fight chair, swim platform, new batt. Extra fuel. Canyon ready. Very clean. $61,000. Must sell; new boat coming. Days: 215-495-7166.

25 PENN YAN Flybridge, fiberglass, 200 hp. $5900. THE MOORING, 516-766-0080.

MERCURY OUTBOARDS

YEAR END Clearance on all 1987 motors at below wholesale prices. 2 hp-220 hp in stock. BAYVILLE MARINE, 516-628-8686.

1986 FORTIER 26' 260 MerCruiser, Loran, VHF, DF. Soft top. Mint cond. $38,900. 516-541-2088.

1974 22' HI-LINER Center Console 302'' Ford Merc I/O, radio & DF. Good shape. Ask: $6500. After 6PM: 212-824-7553.

28' UNIFLITE, 1979 F/B Sportfisherman, Twin FWC Crusaders. This boat is loaded with options, too many to list. Must be seen. For list of equipment and more info, Days: 516-491-5764. Eves: 718-229-4391.

MUST SELL

1983 17' Sportcraft center console, 60 hp Evinrude. EZ Loader trailer, Bimini, graph recorder, CB. Much more. Mint. Ask: $6400. 516-385-1481.

SEA NYMPH 1987 Fishing Boats. Evinrude Outboards. KELLY'S OUTBOARD WORLD, 1531 Lakeland Ave., Bohemia. 516-567-3417.

1986 23' SEA OX Center Console, 200 hp Yamaha. Low hrs. VHF radio, Lowrance recorder, Micrologic 7500 Loran. Many extras. Like new. $15,000. Eves: 718-998-3325.

EVINRUDE O/B '77 175 hp, 25'' shaft. PT&T controls, SS prop & spare. Good cond. $2000. 914-947-2115.

29' SCOTTYCRAFT FB, SF, twin 350 Chev. I/Bs. FWC 350 gal. fuel cap. Full electronics. Rigged for canyon. Full canvas. $27,000. 718-948-2368.

25' 1979 TOLLYCRAFT-10. New gas tanks, new carburetor. Excl. cond. Ready to go. $18,500 negotiable. 516-298-8845.

1978 CENTURY, 7000 Series, 27' 3''. Sleeps 4. New Mercruiser 230 engine, approx. 100 hrs. Galley, stand-up head. New Bimini top, side, aft curtains. Plus more. Excl. cond. In water at Montauk. $19,000. 914-693-4431.

BERTRAM 28' Sportfisherman, GM 8.2L diesels, radar, 2 VHF, Loran, depth recorder, hailer. Gin pole, Pompanette chair, Lee outriggers, enclosure & more. After 7PM: 914-225-4641.

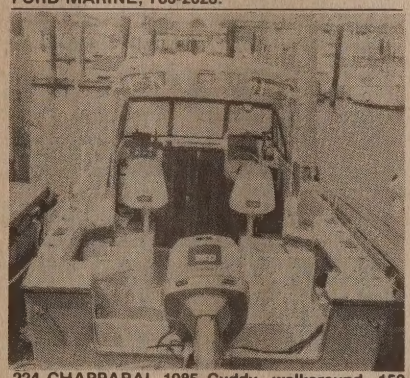
GRADY WHITE 1984 22' Seafarer walkaround. 185 hp and 15 hp Johnson O/Bs. 110 hours, custom canvas, SW washdown, dual batt, Standard VHF, Lowrance X15 recorder, Raytheon 550 Loran C, top condition, none better. $23,500. After 5PM: 516-421-9401.

1983 SEACRAFT, 1984 175 hp Yamaha, T-top. Rigged for fishing. Best offer over $20,000. Days: 203-646-8080. Eves: 203-646-7788.

SUZUKI

SUMMER SPECIALS! 2-200 hp. Special prices on all V6s in stock. New 2-year limited warranty. JENSEN MARINE, 516-226-9739.

CRUISERS INC., 1980 22' Barnegat, 260 hp Mercruiser. Full custom canvas w/dust cover. Engine & boat clean in & out. Super value. $10,900. SEAFORD MARINE, 783-2628.



224 CHAPPARAL 1985 Cuddy, walkaround, 150 Evinrude. 3-yr. full transferable warranty. Full instruments. Custom canvas, outriggers, Bennett trim tabs, color video DF, VHF. Extras. In water; will Demo. Summer slip incl. Getting married; boat must go. B/O. Lv. message: 718-358-3452.

25' 1972 Broadwater Chrysler marine, 450 hrs. Hull excl. Engine excl. Sleeps 4; head. 516-795-9048. Leave message.

GRADY WHITE 25' 1985 Sailfish, hard top, twin 140 hp Johnsons. Clean & ready to go! $38,000. PORT OF EGYPT, Southold. 516-765-2445.

1984 17' PROLINE Center Console, 70 hp Evinrude, compass, tach, voltmeter. Bilge pump, swim platform, cooler seat. Full CG Pkg. Excl. cond. Must sell. $7500. 516-536-2369.

1985 CHRIS CRAFT 25' Scorpion 254, FWC, 260 I/O Mercury. 20 hrs. on engine. Sleeps 4. China head, 2 live baitwells, galley. Many electronics, stereo system, dual batt. Wkdys: 212-406-3390. Wknds: 718-934-0499.

ROBALO 21' cuddy 79 w/84 Merc. Very low hrs. Excl. cond. Well maintained. Dual batt., VHF radio, compass, trim tabs. New canvas. Eves: 516-764-2635.

YAMAHA

YEAR END Clearance on 1987 engines 2 hp - 225 hp in stock. Below wholesale prices. BAYVILLE MARINE, 516-628-8686.

SUZUKI OUTBOARDS. First w/oil injection. 2-200 hp. LEE MARINE, Sayville. 516-567-3313.

MAKO Type Hull, center console w/removable cap, 115 hp Merc PT&T, SST, depth recorder, CB & more. $6495. After 6PM: 516-666-3915.

1985 SEAWAY 26' center console I/B 260 hp FWC, Atlantic tower, dual Morse controls, Lorans. Full canvas, custom tackle lockers, platform, 150 gal. Si-Tex radar. Rigged to fish. Every option. Must see. $49,500. 516-298-9662/766-3347.

COLUMBIA 27' 1973 F.G. Sportfisherman. Numerous options. Super shape. $12,700. 516-477-9512.

24' GRADY WHITE Offshore 1982, 225 hp, trim tabs, swim platform. Full canvas, twin batt., electronics. Yard maintained. Mint cond. Slip avail. Cos Cob. 914-762-1418.

21' GLASTRON 1983 Walkaround Cuddy, 150 Merc. Full electronics, sea water temp. Outriggers, full canvas. Excl. cond. Winter storage. $9000. 516-678-2567.

26' DIESEL Skiff. Excl. 1-man fishing boat. 10' beam. Well equip. Same design as Fortier. Built 1969. Engine installed new 1983. Excl. cond. $12,500. 516-549-2628.

1984 MAKO 228 cuddy cabin. Immaculate. 200 hp Merc. 225 hrs. Galv. Shoreline trailer, Si-Tex recorder & flasher VHF. All canvas. Compl. equip. Many extras; must be seen. Mint. $21,000. 516-889-3965.

CLASSIC

59 Chris Craft 17' Mahogany Speed Boat. 307 reworked last year. Excl. running cond. $3950 or B/O. 516-CU 5-9108.

1985 FORTIER 26, Turbo diesel, electronics. Fast, comfortable, economical. Illness forces sale. After 6PM: 516-661-3956.

34' CHRIS CRAFT, FB Sportfisherman, twin 283 FWC. Sleeps 6. SW washdown, running water. Great shape. $6900. Days: 599-1222. Eves: 599-6237.

FOR SALE: 1985 28' MAKO 1986 twin 200 hp C/R Yamahas. Custom Atlantic top w/compl. encl. & electronics box. Electro-San head, tackle trays, 4 hvy duty batt., 18' Lee outriggers & Pompanette SS 130 chair. R-20 radar, Koden Cus. 88 scope, micro. 5500. Voyager radio, Lowrance 3400 & Dytek 500 & much more. Repl. cost $65,000 plus. Ask: $48,500. Will Demo. 795-8090.

30' TROJAN Glass SF. Clean. Twin FWC 318 Chrys. Low hrs. Montauk. $24,500. 724-8940.

26' FORMULA, 1982 Twin 228 I/O. 9' 6'' beam. Lots of extras. Absolute Mint cond. Rigged for fishing & cruising. $30,000 or B/O. 516-868-8617/363-7267.

Continued On Next Page →

Repowering—am selling twin '83 230 hp Mercruisers. Still in boat for testing. Compl. FWC, mounts & 1.52:1 S/Warner trans. $2600 takes pair. 516-668-3565.

25' STEIGERCRAFT 1985, Yamaha 200 hp O/B. Very clean. $16,500. 201-261-6670.

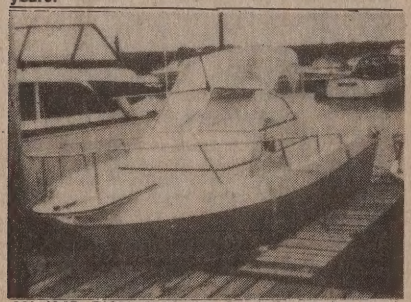
21' '77 CRUISERS INC, Bonanza, Johnson 200, VHF, LCD depth finder. Full canvas. Good cond. $7000. 516-756-7069.

1969 ARISTOCRAFT 17' Fiberglass 40 hp Johnson & trailer. Runs good. Will Demo. $950. 718-845-0270.

MUST SELL. Moving Oct. 15th. 16' Alum. 40 hp Evinrude. Many extras. $1000 B/O. Richie: 718-359-3141.

ONLY $7995 PRIVATEER

18' Privateer center console, 88 hp Johnson, elec. start, windshield/overrail. Freight & prep. incl. EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE CORP., 210 Beach 2nd St; 718-327-3168. One location for the past 50 years.



22' IMP FISH 1986 230 hp I/O. Walkaround, anchor pulpit, 75 gal. fuel cap. Cuddy cabin, Porta-Pottl. Fish & bait boxes, depth finder, compass. Owner moving. $15,000. 718-456-3750.

GRADY WHITE 73 21' 165 hp OMC I/O. Radio, DF. Low hrs. Ask: $6500. 516-799-1573.

GRADY WHITES

1987 New Grady White 24', 235 hp Johnson, new powerhead-$23,300

1979 Grady White Chesapeake 21' 2", 260 hp OMC I/O-$11,800

1974 Grady White Sportsman 19' 1", 1975 85 hp Johnson-$4750

PRIVATEERS

1984 Privateer 18' Closed Bow, 1984 Johnson 60 hp-$6950

1985 Leftover Privateer 18' Bay Prowler FWC 130 hp BMW-$9900

1979 Privateer Roamer 20' 2" center console w/ new Johnson 110 hp-$8735

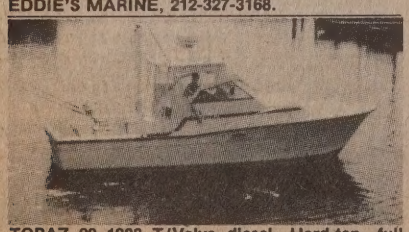
1983 Privateer 21' 6" center console Volvo I/O 125 hp-$11,500

OTHER USED BOATS

1974 25' Slickcraft 10' beam twin Merc 180 hp. Low hrs. Electric dockside pwr, encl. head, ice box, etc-$17,995

1973 Marquis Caribbean 18' 9", 1973 115 hp Johnson-$3995

EDDIE'S MARINE, 212-327-3168.



TOPAZ 29 1983 T/Volvo diesel. Hard-top, full electronics. Chair. Loaded; many extras. Mint cond. Original owner. 516-681-2517.

1986 GRADY WHITE 24' Offshore, 225 Evinrude, VHF, Hydraulic steering, SW Washdown, fresh water, less than 70 hrs. $24,500. 516-242-1886.

TOLLYCRAFT 24' Sportfisher. Full cabin, w/ head, sink, 215 hp OMC I/O. Plenty fishing rm. Excl. cond. Extras. Boat in Bronx Marina. Must sell. A steal at $5500. Eves: 914-279-5442. Days: 914-397-6792. Ask for Bill.

25' WELLCRAFT Nova. Needs fiberglass work above waterline. In water. $1800 or B/O. 351 Ford. 434-6511.

Engine 350 CI, GM, FWC. 240 hrs. 2-1 transmission. Compl. Runs perfect. $2000. After 5: 718-478-3542.

27' SILVERTON 1971 FB, dual stations, 318 Chrys. Good mechanical cond. Many extras. In water Lindenhurst, LI. 2-boat owner. Very anxious. $6000 Neg. 201-843-4367, any time. Lv. message.

GRADY WHITE 25' 1982 Wahoo, hard top, 255 hp FWC Mercury I/B. Loran, 2 depth finders, VHF plus more! $28,500. PORT OF EGYPT, Southold, 516-765-2445.

1979 GRADY WHITE Sprint 17', 70 hp Evinrude. Trailer & full canvas. $3750. 718-225-4043.

BOATING EQUIP.

Custom vented Winter Tarp & frame for 30' Sea Ray Weekender-$200. Twin 16x19 props, Si-Tex 767C Loran w/antenna-$325. And Misc. boat equip. 783-3674.

TRAILER HITCHES: Expert installation 4X4/RV. Accessories, CBs. Shoreline sales; repairs. ADR RECREATION & COMMUNICATIONS, Islip. 516-581-6411.

Fishbox & baitwell w/teak top & cutting board. 88" wide w/curved back to fit transom. Excl. cond. $400. Tony, M-F 8-5: 914-948-7349.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem Axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-05 B'Way, Woodside, NY. 718-426-7039.

VOLVO Penta, high speed stainless steel prop. 14x23, 3-blade R.H. Excl. cond. $150. 212-885-1757 Eves. Bob.

20% off List Price on OMC, Evinrude & Johnson propellers. BURCK, 526 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY. 212-885-1559.

PAIR 318 C.I. Chrysler 1972 FWC. Both good running. $2100/pair. 516-587-7695/598-0353.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG. INC., 1121-16 Lincoln Av., Holbrook, NY 11741. 516-563-2263.

BOAT TRAILERS: EZ Loader. All sizes in stock. Immediate Del. Priced right. Trailer hitches installed. SEAHORSE TRAILER, Glen Head, NY. 516-676-5313.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

CUSTOM MARINE WOODWORK. No job too small: tackle lockers, instrument enclosures, consoles, bow pulpits, etc. Interior & exterior repairs & restorations. CUSTOM MARINE CARPENTRY, 516-623-1639.

FISHING TACKLE

RADAR, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS INC., 377 Woodcleft Av., Freeport, NY; 516-623-4421.

LATE! LATE! LATE! It's not too late. EDELMAN'S. See ad Page 2.

MITCHELL 498 Pro Reel skirted spool spinning reel. Manual pick-up, ball bearing large line capacity. Used very little. Fast 4.1-1 gear ratio. $50. Can be seen Fisherman office, Mystic, Ct; 203-572-0564. Can Ship UPS.

PENN International 130 reel & bent butt Ugly Stik. Ande green line. Never used. $950. 516-399-3246.

7 Matched 50 lb. class rods; Fenwick blanks, aluminum butts; 5 - 50 Internationals; 2 - 50W Internationals. All w/80 lb. line. All in mint cond. After 5: 516-667-0317.

FOR SALE: Penn 80W. Used one season. Excl. shape. Price-$400 incl. original carton & instruction manual. Bought newer model. Can be seen Fisherman office, Mystic, Ct. 203-572-0564. Can ship UPS.

Contents of Fishing Store: hundreds of boxes of hooks, fresh & salt water, lures, fly line, leader, cartons of reel seats & rod butts, large shark hooks, etc. 8 large cartons of equip. Pkg. deal. $250 a steal. Tony, M-F: 914-948-7349.

LURES, LURES, LURES! Hopkins, Kastmasters, Poppers-$1.99. Bomber, Atom, Superstrike Needles-$3.99. Ande 1/4-$3.99. Tube tins-$1.35. Gary: 516-736-0912.

DIAMOND JIGS, LURES, HOOKS
and other fine tackle at sensible prices. Free catalog. TERMINAL TACKLE CO., Box 427, Kings Park, NY 11754.

MISCELLANEOUS

SURF FISHING GUIDE & TUTOR
Personalized Surf Fishing Instruction with LIF Editor & Surf Fishing columnist, Fred Golofaro. North & South Shores; Montauk. One or two anglers—day & night trips. All tackle supplied. 516-581-0077.

CAPTAIN AVAILABLE: USCG 100 ton Ocean Operator licensed. 30 yrs. experience. Deliveries, charters, trips. Personalized instructions. 914-964-9451.

CARGO FREEZER: 8'x20', operating, 3-phase electric. Ask: $5000. 874-3938.

WINTER STORAGE & '87 Summer Dockage avail. in Seaford. COMPASS ROSE BOATWORKS, 516-783-3220.

BOAT CLEANING: Washing, waxing, interior & exterior cleaning. All types of cleaning service. Weekly, monthly, seasonal rates. Special spring open-up service. Call for free estimates. LIKE NEW BOAT CLEANING, Richie: 516-826-3699.

WANTED: Fishermen to share expenses. Boat in Montauk. Flounder, cod, weaks, porgies, tuna. Eves: 516-671-7690.

HOUSE PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

DUCK & GOOSE HUNTING on private land. Pit blind & professional guides at reasonable rates. 516-747-0289.

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SURF SCOUT SAFARIS
Tired of trekking miles of beach? Use all your energy for the fish instead of the trek. Work the beaches & jetties from Montauk to Barnegat Light & beyond. A serious surf fisherman & his vehicle will be your guide & "legs." NY city based & will chase fish anywhere. Tackle provided. Contact: Ron Frank, 212-750-8480. 24-hr. answer service: 212-603-9554.

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Rockaway Chair, compl. w/cushions. Super heavy duty. $650. 665-6629.

General Electric 25.3 cu. ft. Chest freezer. Cost $600; 1-yr. old. $300. Mint. 281-4159.

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RELIABLE MARINE SERVICE
We come to your boat. Tune-ups, troubleshooting, rebuilding. Factory certified. Free service calls. BOB LEATHERMAN, 516-321-4550.

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LORAN Numbers for 60 of the area's hottest wrecks, reefs & fishing spots are avail. on a 4"x5½" fully laminated card which is waterproof, durable & compact. Simply send $5 to: DE MAPO ENTERPRISES, 120 Ave. U, Suite 1231, Brooklyn, NY 11229.

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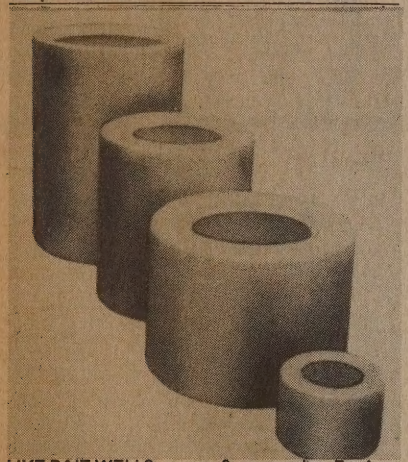

LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av, Dept. E, Central Islip, NY 11722; 516-234-0144.

HELP WANTED: F/T & P/T. Retail sales, stock work, shipping. MERRICK TACKLE, Bellmore. 516-781-7766.

DIESEL FUEL: Premium diesel fuel delivered to your boat. Buy direct & save. 422-2258.

INTERSTATE Trailing; boat & car hauling. Special Montauk rates. Dave: 883-3958.

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MONTAUK: Beautiful Cottages for rent on the cliffs overlooking Ft. Pond Bay. In-between Harbor & town. Daily; weekly. 516-668-2071.

JENSEN BEACH, Stuart, FL. Condo on the ocean. Sleeps 4. Excl. surf casting, bridge fishing. Charter boats, restaurants, bar, boat rentals. Weekly, monthly. 516-798-5555.

MONTAUK Rental & Co-Op sales: Heart of the Harbor. Walk to fishing boats. Waterfront 2BR cottages, apartments, studios. Cottages accommodate up to 6 persons. Montauk Soundview. 516-668-2771/9152.

RENT FLORIDA KEYS Condo, Duck Key, 2BR, 2Bth. Fully equip. Week or month. Bus: 516-264-2202. Home: 516-422-3492.

MONTAUK: Beautiful Cottages for rent on the cliffs overlooking Ft. Pond Bay. In-between Harbor & town. Daily; weekly. 516-668-2071.

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tions to Dave on a once in a lifetime fish.

Up on the North Shore, Mike Andreani at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** reported a 10¾ lb. blue for Sonny Yocum on Sunday morning. It was taken at Sunken Meadow on a popper.

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle in** Huntington said that big bluefish continued to massacre schools of bunker within range of shore casters in Huntignton Harbor this week. Wednesday morning was an especially wild scene at the Huntington town dock with fish up to 19 and 20 lbs. taken. Big plugs remain the ticket for these fish.

Over at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**, Stan Hentschel said that bunker chunkers have been enjoying a steady pick of big blues along local beaches from Hagerman's Landing to Shoreham. At least one big striper found a bunker chunk to his liking. On Friday morning, John Baratella dragged a 38 pound striper to the shop's scale. It was taken from a local beach.

Freshwater REPORT
with Tom Schlichter

After a couple of lackluster weeks, the freshwater scene bounced back to life as clear skies seemed to prompt both fish and anglers into action. Fast fishing was the general rule for trout, bass and pickerel with live bait and lures producing about equally. A few lucky anglers even hung lunkers this week.

Bill Beckman of **Beckman's Bait and Tackle, Lynbrook**, informed us that anglers fishing at Hempstead Lake and Grant Park scored with both bass and carp this week. At Grant Park, most of the bass were on the small side and were responding best to night crawler baits. Over at Hempstead Lake, the fish seem to average a little larger and preferred small plugs, surface lures or live killies.

At **Causeway Bait and Tackle, Wantagh**, Mike Nicoletti noted that bass fishing has been good on the east side of Massapequa Reservior and at North and Middle Twin Lakes. Most of the action at the first location has centered around dusk with live killies producing 2 to 4 bass per angler. The majority of these have exceeded the legal 12 inch limit and some have been as large as 3 lbs. The Middle and North Twin Lakes have been giving up a respectable number of largemouths to anglers working plastic worms around the edges of lily pads. Al Cullen has been playing the Middle Lake after work each evening to the tune of 4 to 6 bass a trip.

From Fred Laager of **Edelman's Sportsmen's Center East, Centereach** we learned of some largemouth bass action on the Carman's River. Fishing the Lower Lake section on Thursday evening, Ben Krauss connected with a 3.2 lb. largemouth and several smaller bass. All were taken on plastic worms.

At **Peppy's Bait and Tackle, East Islip**, Jim Romano informed us that Robert Rosa stopped by the shop on Saturday to weigh in a 6 lb. bucketmouth taken on a killie which he livelined in Brookwood Hall Lake. On Monday, Jim and friend Larry Boyer gave Cannon Lake a shot and were rewarded with some big yellow perch and pickerel to 3 lbs. All the perch fell for night crawlers while killies were used to trick the pickerel.

Just to the east, at **J&R Sports Center, Oakdale**, Phil Briggs told us that he hadn't seen bass this week, but the Connetquot River trout were pleasing anglers in both the tidal and park sections of the river. Fishing inside the park on Saturday, Keith Abrams nailed three rainbows to 16 inches. In the tidal section, Chris Meely used worms to entice three good rainbows and a 20 inch brown trout. A few decent fish were also reported from Bubbles Falls.

From Paul Graniello of **J&J Bait and Tackle, Patchogue**, we learned that the bass fishing on Patchogue Lake is still red-hot. Early last week, Tony Haviland used live golden shiners to nail a 3 lb. bass and several smaller fish. Robert Cancel also got in on the fun, dropping a night crawler to a bass that pulled the scacle to 6.14 lbs. Robert is now leading the shop's bass contest. When Joe Napoli tried his luck, the result was a 3.12 lb. pickerel. In addition to live bait, Paul noted that many anglers were getting strikes on topwater plugs.

At the **Fisherman's Deli, Riverhead**, Mrs. Devlin told us that her son George stopped by the shop on Saturday. With nothing more than a single trout finished Rebel and a pair of waders, he plodded behind the shop and tangled with 6 pickerel to 22 inches, 3 bass, 2 crappie and 3 large bluegill. Most of the fish George took hit the lure while it was resting on the surface. Gentle line twitches were the key to provoking strikes.

The trout season is about to end and Ken Josephson of **Crazy Chief Ski and Sport, Hunter Mt.**, is ready to move on to ski season. First, however, he would like to thank all those anglers who trekked up to the Scurykill River and stopped by the shop. **Crazy Chief's** will be undergoing some renovations this winter and Ken looks forward to greeting everyone from a remodeled shop next spring.

11th Anniversary

Cmon Aboard '87

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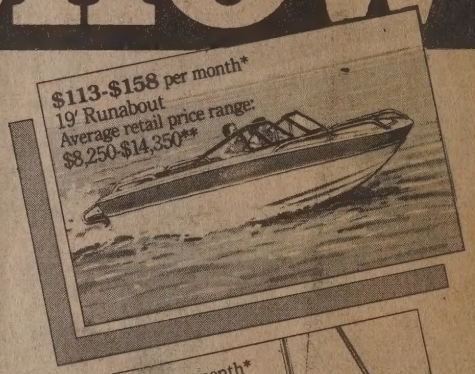

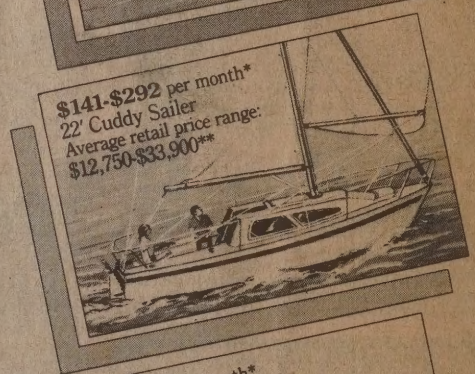

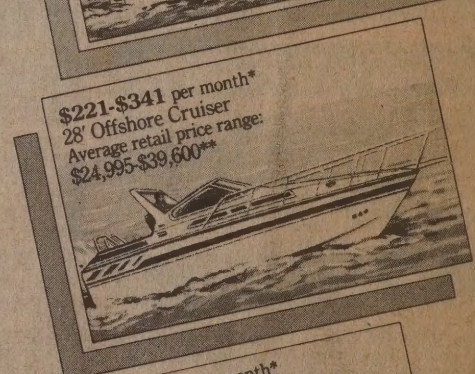

* Monthly cost of ownership figures based on 20 percent downpayments and average finance rates and terms from nationwide sample of lending institutions polled Fall 1986.

** Retail price ranges based on nationwide manufacturer sample and include price of outboard or sterndrive engines, where applicable.

GUY LOMBARDO MARINA

Admission:
Sept. 25 Red Carpet Day $10.00
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